TheHighlander

Thursday June 25 2026 | Issue 745

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS AND WEEKEND FREE

Tragically Chip

Evan Backus and Lilly Casey get their hands on a double-scoop of The Tragically Chip at the Kawartha Dairy in Minden. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Highlands' government review underway

By Lisa Gervais

A former director of the Haliburton County EMS told Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) consultants Tuesday (June 23) they could find municipal government efficiencies by consolidating roads, and fire, departments in the Highlands.

Bob English was one of about 20 people who attended an open house for an affordability and governance study that EORN is doing on behalf of the County of Haliburton.

His comments came after consultant, Maureen Adams, said one example of making local government more efficient could be centralizing planning services at the County level. Now, each municipality has at least one planner and some have junior planners.

English said it's been done for paramedics and is not about losing personnel, but rather "wanting to provide seamless service," with things such as standardized firefighting equipment, dispatch, and response times. He noted that now, some fire departments in the County can do water rescues, while some can only do shore rescues.

He said this could also be done with plow routes and parole yards.

Former County warden Chris Hodgson said because the County is small, the consultants must come up with a unique plan and then seek changed funding formulas from the province for things such

Continued **'Talk'** on page 2

Highlander news

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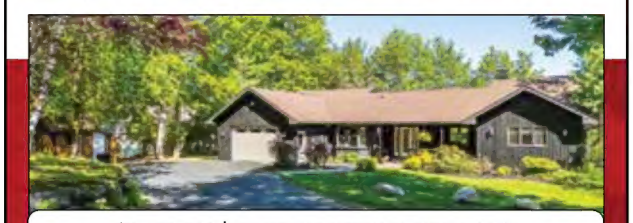

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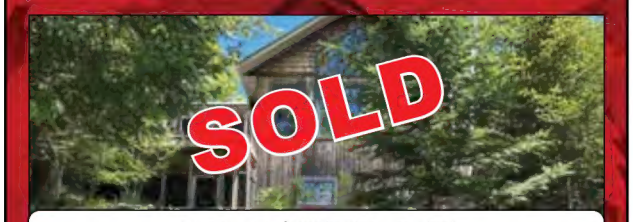

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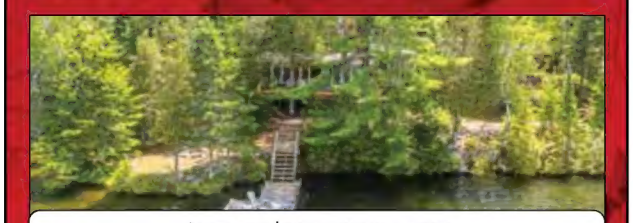

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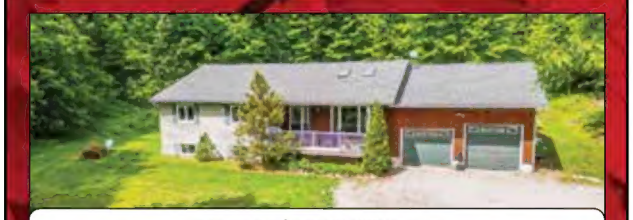

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Above: Lisa Werry fills out a post it about what services are important to her. Inset: Maureen Adams facilitates an open house at the Haliburton Legion Tuesday (June 23). *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Talk of consolidating services

Continued from page 1

as OPP billing.

Farmer Godfrey Tyler said one of the study's challenges is that there are two distinct societies in Haliburton County: those who were born and grew up there; and newcomers in the form of retirees, migrants, and refugees from urban areas. "Their interests are different."

Adams said they are also hearing from people that youth are looking to move elsewhere because there is nothing to keep them in the County.

Fellow resident Pamela Marsales wanted to know where the study was headed. Adams told her they are gathering feedback in June, then hoping to provide modeling options to the County at the end of July. It will be up to the County of Haliburton whether those models are taken back out to public meetings.

She noted nothing is predetermined; it could be status quo; amalgamation from two to single-tier or a modified approach, including talk of perhaps consolidating a couple of townships. She said they would come up with models, including costs, and service delivery levels.

EORN has been meeting with Highlands' residents all week as part of the study. Last week, they held engagement sessions with the County, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills.

Jim Pine, of Jim Pine Consulting, Adams and Lisa Severson of EORN have been making the rounds.

"We really want to make sure people can participate as fully as they possibly can because we do want that individual reflection from people and we want to take advantage of group discussions …" Pine told councillors.

He said the study is underway now because of growing fiscal pressures and challenging 2026 budgets.

EORN added the study will clarify each municipality's financial state and future pressures; analyze governance models; look at good examples from other areas; and set things up better for the 2026-2030 councils.

Adams said one of the greatest challenges for this area is the tax base is 98 per cent residential, which limits how much money municipalities can bring in. She noted the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has not done a property reassessment since 2016. Further, the average household income is 17 per cent below the provincial average.

Adams added Haliburton County relies heavily on a tourism-based economy with seasonal service demands. There are some high-cost services, such as OPP, that are beyond local control and federal and provincial infrastructure funding is unpredictable and insufficient.

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No AI slop

Sewage expansion still two years away

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council learned this week that it will be another two years before the proposed expansion of the Haliburton Wastewater Treatment Plant is complete, should it be approved by the Ontario government.

John Levie, vice president of engineering with Clearford Water Solutions – the firm that manages the plant for Dysart and was retained in January 2025 to oversee upgrades – told council June 23 that the project was still in the first of three planned phases, focusing on design and regulatory approval.

The project will increase capacity at the site, located between Grass and Head lakes in Haliburton village, by about 50 per cent. Levie said it will allow the township to provide sewer services to 800 additional properties. It's expected to cost about $14 million.

The plant is now running at 89 per cent capacity, about seven per cent more than when the process began two years ago. Levie said reservations for a proposed long-term care build on the township's 92-acre property on County Road 21 and some residential units in the downtown had almost maxed out available allocations at the plant.

He noted once a plant hits 80 per cent capacity, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) require townships to start planning for expansion.

Over the past year, Levie said Clearford has completed all conceptual design work for the expansion. Equipment has been reviewed, with a wishlist of new materials established.

An application to increase the amount of treated water put back into the Lake Kashagawigamog chain will soon be submitted to the MECP for approval. Levie said he had hoped to get that in earlier, but he was delayed after a local group raised concerns over the project with the province.

John Puffer from the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization (LKO) said his group has worked with the Canning Lake Property Owners Association for the past few months to better understand the township's plans. He said the two associations are opposed to the expansion as initially proposed in 1989.

Levie noted that, when the plant was upgraded in the 90s, it was done with future expansions in mind. He said he expects MECP to support the project based on that early approval, as well as recent regulatory changes at the provincial level.

Consultant John Levie at the Haliburton Wastewater Treatment Plant. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Puffer said the groups' primary aim is to prevent more phosphorous loading into the lake chain.

"We want to work with Dysart to ensure there is an overall plan to prevent more loading. This may require offering offsets including hooking up more lakefront properties to the plant," Puffer said, noting the sewage plant is more effective at keeping phosphorous at bay than individual septic systems.

Levie contends the Haliburton plant is already one of the top performing, environmentally-sound plants in the province. He noted the treatment process removes 98 per cent of carbon, 98-99 per cent of nitrogen/ammonia, and 97-98 per cent of phosphorous from the water.

Staff tests water quality weekly, with Levie telling *The Highlander* last fall he hasn't seen any major issues in his 21 years working at the site. Per the MECP, the environmental compliance approval for nitrogen/ammonia is 5 milligrams per litre, with phosphorous at 0.2 milligrams per litre.

Looking at annual data stretching back to 2021, Levie said the highest level of nitrogen/ammonia was recorded from January to August of 2024, at 0.06 mg/l, and the highest level of phosphorous in 2022 at 0.05 mg/l.

With the 50 per cent capacity increase, Levie said they'll be able to drop the concentration limit of phosphorous to two-thirds of what it is right now.

"This will provide additional assurances that lake water quality will be protected," Levie said.

He hopes to have that pre-consultation with MECP this summer or fall. Once that's completed, the formal application can be submitted. That will kickstart the technical review process, which can take up to a year. The second phase focuses on detailed engineering, another year-long process. Levie said he's hoping to complete that work while the technical review is underway.

The third phase is constructing and commissioning of the new system, which Levie estimates will take another year.

The township will be seeking government grants to help with the final bill, Levie confirmed.

County Road 21

Plans are progressing at the 92-acre property on County Road 21, with council learning at a June 16 special meeting that the township can extend sewer lines to the entire property, potentially increasing the number of units that can be developed.

"By extending municipal sanitary services, we could fit up to 90 (single family home) lots here with sewage connections. The only constraints then would be water capacity, whether there's enough water underground to service that many private wells," said consultant Evan Sugden.

There was some talk last week about whether council wanted to leave space for a public park. There's a requirement within the Municipal Act that says five per cent of a developable property needs to be reserved as parkland.

Currently, the 11.3 acres allocated as parkland equates to 12.2 per cent of the property. Coun. Pat Casey felt that was too much, wanting to see some of that land, fronting CR21, to be used for highway commercial development.

"I'm all about bringing in new businesses. We already have a big park in town. If we're trying to maximize density and looking at dollars spent versus dollars earned, then that highway commercial component is important," Casey said.

The township has committed to servicing the first phase of development at the site before selling to prospective builders. There will be more discussion on the project at a July 7 special meeting of council.

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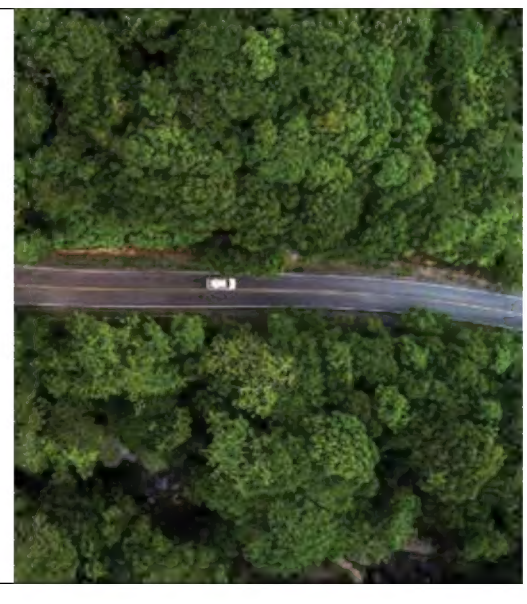
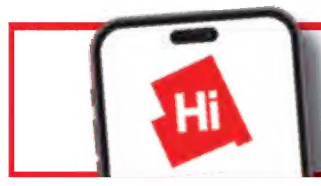


Highlander news



No trolls

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Indigenous garden

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen has expressed disappointment over the length of time it's taken the township to follow through on its commitment to install an Indigenous garden at Tapscott Lopes Park in Dorset.

That was one of the conditions of the land transfer after Don Tapscott and Ana Lopes donated the Dorset pavilion and community park property to the municipality in February 2024.

At a June 18 meeting, Chris Card, the township's manager of parks, recreation and trails, told council he'd drafted a letter to be sent out to seven Indigenous communities, seeking guidance over what should be included in the garden.

"I am a little disappointed it's taken this long to get to this point given the commitment we made," Danielsen said. "This is year three and it would appear to me that we're not going to be able to prepare the garden [for opening] this year. That disappoints me."

Card said he is aiming to have the garden installed by September. He's been working with Four Directions of Conservation Consulting on the Indigenous component, which carried a $14,500 price tag. Garden materials and installation is expected to cost an additional $10,000.

He said the township was seeking advice from four Mississauga Nation communities – Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Mississaugas of Scugog Island; and three Chippewa Nation sites – Beausoleil, Chippewas of Georgina Island and Chippewas of Rama.

Card said he envisions a 20-foot-by-20-foot garden that will function as a teaching space for Indigenous language, harvesting practices and seasonal cycles; a ceremonial site for gatherings, offerings and reflection; and a healing environment supporting physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

"This garden will be rooted in the Indigenous belief that land is not a backdrop but a relative, teacher and source of identity," Card said. "We hope to choose plants not for aesthetics alone, but for their roles in medicines, foods and as cultural teachers."

Card noted First Nation communities will have up to three weeks to respond, with design work and plant list expected to come back to council in the fall for approval. While the grounds won't be "booming" with plant life this year, Card said the site will be prepared.

"At the very least if we can dig a flower bed and plant whatever is appropriate to be planted in the fall… I'd feel much better," Danielsen said.

Tapscott Lopes Park in Dorset is getting an Indigenous garden. *File.*

Deputy mayor vote

Council has firmed up the process around deputy mayor nominations, with anyone seeking an appointment needing a second voice on council to support their claim.

In Algonquin Highlands, the public votes to elect a mayor and four councillors. During their first meetings following an election, council selects a deputy mayor, who serves as the township's second representative on County council. Jennifer Dailloux has served in the role since October 2022.

Clerk Dawn Newhook said council had to decide whether to allow members to self-nominate for the deputy role, which they did, and whether they require a seconder, which they do.

After coun. Sabrina Richards asked what would happen if all four councillors wanted to serve as deputy and wouldn't second one another, it was decided the mayor would be the deciding vote.

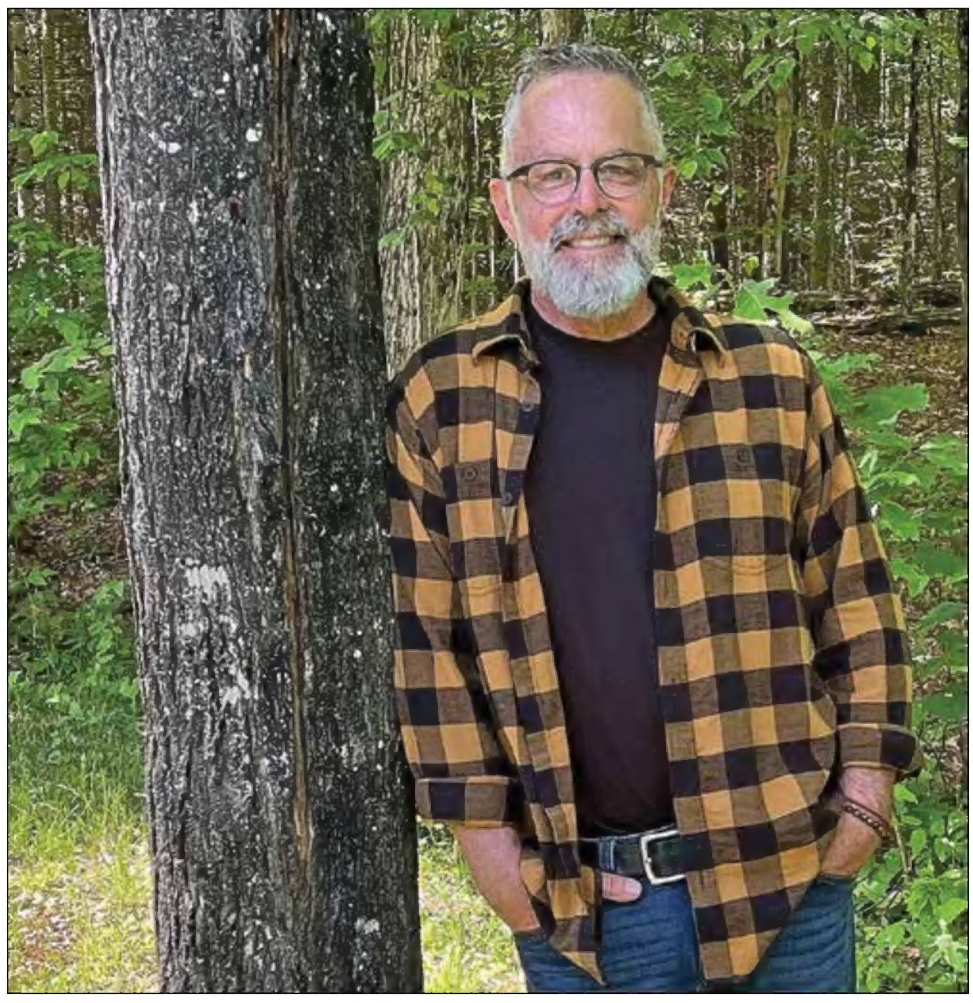
"Personally, I think the deputy mayor should be elected at large [by the public], but that's not on the table for discussion today," Danielsen said.

(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker)

No tech bros

Home in boardroom and bush

By Lisa Gervais



Dave Newnham starts with the land trust July 6. *Submitted.*

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has a new executive director.

The not-for-profit charitable organization said last week that Dave Newnham starts July 6.

Chair Todd Hall, on behalf of the board of directors, said, "Dave brings a strong commitment to Haliburton County, where he has lived intermittently since the late 1980s."

Hall added Newnham has extensive leadership experience from his previous roles as vice president, camping and outdoor education with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario and president and executive director of the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.

Earlier in his career, Newnham worked at Kinark for several years as a supervisor and also at YMCA Camp Wanakita.

"Through all of his roles, Dave's approach has been characterized by the development of strong new partnerships and community support, the creation of successful non-profit fundraising strategies, the inspiration of strong staff and volunteer teams, and the connection of Ontarians with nature," Hall said.

He added Newnham was "comfortable in the boardroom and in the bush. Dave brings a wealth of experience to HHLT at an important moment. A proven and dynamic leader, Dave has long demonstrated both a commitment to the natural world, and a great talent in connecting people – especially children – to its wonder."

As the land trust embarks on an ambitious phase of growth and service to the Haliburton community, Hall said he can't wait to work with Newnham to maximize its positive impact. "As a full-time resident of Algonquin Highlands, Dave's familiarity with the County ensures he can hit the ground running."

Newnham said he was delighted to step into the executive director position with the land trust.

"It's an inspiring opportunity to bring together my deep commitment to environmental stewardship, my background in leading not-for-profit organizations looking to make a real impact, and my love for the incredible natural diversity and the great sense of community here in the Haliburton Highlands.

"I look forward to meeting with our dedicated volunteers, supporters and members of the community to build on our success over the last two decades and work together to deepen our legacy of protected lands and waters for generations to come."

HHLT is a not-for-profit charitable organization focused on the conservation of the natural heritage of Haliburton County, currently owning and managing seven nature reserves, comprising more than 1,500 acres, of ecologically-diverse lands and waters. Two of the properties have well developed trail systems that are free and open to the public for hiking and nature appreciation.

HHLT is presently working with other partners, including the Ontario Conservation Accelerator, to conserve more ecologically-sensitive land in the County with a 2026-27 goal of doubling land holdings, opening more public trails, and increasing the number of its partners in conservation.

HHLT's board of directors and committees are made up of volunteers.

Hall said, "we welcome your support. Please consider joining our Friends of HHLT group, volunteering on a committee or at an event, becoming an HHLT property monitor and/or making a financial contribution. Help protect the land and water you love."

For more information, contact: admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca

Man dies after bridge diving incident

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton Highlands OPP are continuing to investigate an incident in West Guilford on Sunday (June 21) that resulted in the death of a 38-year-old Algonquin Highlands man.

Police said they responded to a report of an injured person near a bridge on Stanhope Airport Road between All Seasons Court and Pine Needle Trail at 1:42 p.m. Cst. Rob Adams, in a media release, said the man dove from the bridge and struck a boat travelling on the water below.

The man was able to exit the water and make his way to a nearby residence, where they received medical assistance. Despite life-saving efforts, the man later died at the scene, police said.

Adams said local officers are still investigating with support from the OPP central region traffic incident management enforcement team. He's asking anyone who witnessed the incident or caught it on camera to contact police at 1-888-310-1122.

Adams also encouraged people to keep safety top of mind when on or around water.

"Water safety remains a consistent seasonal focus for police each year. Waterways can present serious and often unpredictable risks, regardless of the location," Adams said. "It's important to remain aware of your surroundings, follow any posted signage and recognize that conditions above and below the surface may not be as they appear."

The Highlander has confirmed the identity of the deceased as Kale Kyle. In a Facebook post June 22, Cheryl Smith Hamilton of the Minden Mixed Baseball League (MMBL) said Kyle would be missed.

"The MMBL mourns the loss of one of our own. As captain of the Trash Pandas, Kale's love for the game and dedication to his team will not be forgotten… I'll miss our weekly chats," she said.

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No misinformation

Jack Brezina of Minden Hills moderates an all-candidates meeting in Minden during a past election. *File.*

County heading for fewer councillor acclamations

By Lisa Gervais

Municipal election races are starting to heat up in the Highlands.

As a result, the public will have choices when it comes to mayor of three of the four townships.

Incumbent Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter has filed his nomination papers. He will try to maintain his seat while three others: current councillor-at-large Tammy McKelvey, current coun. Pam Sayne, and Minden businessman Pat Kitcheman try to replace him.

Incumbent deputy-mayor Lisa Schell now has opposition, with Ivan Ingram switching to council's second in command, from Ward 1.

The councillor-at-large job will see a race between incumbent Bob Sisson and former coun. Ron Nesbitt.

Ward one is represented by two councillors, and sitting member Shirley Johannessen is running again. She is being challenged by Dan Garbutt.

Ward 2 has a new contender in Brad Griffin squaring off against Stephen Hertel, who has unsuccessfully run in the past. And Ward 3 currently has one contender: Jeff Hancock from Irondale.

Dysart et al has a mayor's race, with current coun. Pat Casey seeking the top job, opposed by Greg Bishop and Andrew Nowell.

Walt McKechnie is so far the only contender for deputy mayor. Ward 1 sees Danny Roberts so far squaring off against Rob McCaig; Mike Waller is the only candidate as of now for Ward 2; Tammy Donaldson gets a run for her money in Ward 3 with Geoff Webber and Marianne Schlottke seeking that seat; Carm Sawyer is so far alone for Ward 4; and ward five sees a challenge for Barry Boice from Kirby Bagg. Nancy Wood-Roberts is not running.

In Highlands East, it's so far a two-person race for mayor with incumbent Dave Burton being challenged by Steven Kauffeldt.

There are no races yet in the other wards. Bill Easton has filed for Ward 1; Angela Lewis for Ward 2; Cecil Ryall for Ward 3 and Ruth Strong for Ward 4. Cam McKenzie is not seeking re-election.

In Algonquin Highlands, it's a slow start to the election. So far, only incumbent mayor Liz Danielsen and Ward 2 coun. Lisa Barry have filed. Deputy major Jennifer Dailloux is not running. Results are as of noon June 24.

The last day to file a nomination is Friday, Aug. 21, by 2 p.m.

Public Notice of Council Vacancy and Special Meeting

At a Special Council Meeting held on June 16th, 2026, Dysart et al Council declared the Mayor's seat vacant.

Dysart et al Council has chosen to fill this vacancy by appointing a current member of Council to the Mayor's role, until the end of the current Council term on November 14, 2026.

A special meeting to appoint a new Mayor will be held on July 7th, 2026, at 9:00am in the Dysart Council Chambers.

Any current Council member who wishes to be nominated to fill the vacant position of Mayor is required to notify the Clerk in writing of their consent to nomination at least five (5) business days prior to the July 7th, 2026, Special Meeting.

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Editorial opinion

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Get involved in study

By Lisa Gervais

The affordability and governance study currently underway in the County is the most important thing this term of council is dealing with.

If you are unaware of the study, let us catch you up. The County of Haliburton has hired the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, or EORN, to look at ways to simplify government processes and provide better value for taxpayers.

While some think this means amalgamation, it may not. Nothing has been predetermined. There could, for example, be a series of shared service agreements.

Last week, the EORN team met with all five municipalities: the County, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills.

This week, they have been holding open houses: beginning with ones Tuesday (June 23) at the Haliburton Legion; and later, the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre in Wilberforce. Yesterday (June 24), they held a virtual open house. And, today (June 25), there are gatherings at the Dorset Recreation Centre in Algonquin Highlands from 2-4 p.m. and the Minden Hills Community Centre from 6-8 p.m.

Time is also winding down on a public survey that must be completed by June 28 at wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca . There are also paper copies at municipal offices and libraries. We urge you to take the 10 minutes or so to provide your input.

We cannot stress enough that the public, whether you are a businessperson or resident, needs to take part in this process if you want to see change.

And, although the current councils are offering their ideas, they are not the ones who will decide what change could look like moving forward. Rather, it will be the councils of 2026-2030 that will help determine our political future.

For that very reason, you should want to know what candidates for the fall election think about this study. What is their vision for the future of County affordability and governance?

At *The Highlander*, for a long time we have argued the status quo cannot remain. Having five governments, and 32 political positions [24 elected with eight of them on County council] for a population of just over 20,000 does not compute.

Having four lower-tier governments with four different sets of rules and regulations has not served us well. While the towns are playing better in the sand box these days, they still go off in different directions, creating angst for businesses and the general public. It is not efficient.

There were wake-up calls for all levels of local government in their 2026 budgets. They cannot afford to continue the way they have been. The tax base is 98 per cent residential, which limits how much money can be brought in. The average household income is 17 per cent below the provincial average. We have high-cost services, such as OPP and social services. Those costs are not going down, but up, and in some cases double-digit up.

We are encouraged by the number of people who are filing for this election. We need to ensure the electorate is engaged as well.

Please take part in this study.

World Cup fever

By Mike Baker

I blame my cultural heritage for this, being from England, but I feel like I turn into a kid on Christmas every time the World Cup comes around.

The soccer tournament, which runs every four years, is being held in North America. Games are being played in 16 cities across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, with the monthlong celebration running from June 11 to July 19.

It's the first time the global competition has been played on these shores in more than 30 years, after the U.S. hosted in 1994. It's been an interesting watch thus far.

Traditionally, the World Cup featured 32 teams, but this year is bigger than ever before, with 48 nations included. Four countries are making their debut, with Cabo Verde, Curacao, Jordan and Uzbekistan competing in their first tournament.

As one of the host nations, Canada is involved too. This is only the third time Les Rouges has appeared in the event. They made their World Cup bow in Mexico in 1986 and played in Qatar in 2022.

The reds have turned heads thus far. The team kicked things off in Toronto June 12 with a 1-1 tie with Bosnia and Herzegovina, securing their first point at a World Cup.

I watched the game at a cottage in Burks Falls, where I was staying with 10 others for a friend's bachelor party. I was the only one watching for the first 10 minutes. Then I coaxed someone over with a bag of chips – they made sure to point out that, to them, soccer wasn't on the same level as hockey, basketball, and baseball. In terms of excitement, they put it on par with lawn bowling.

Fast-forward to the 78th minute, when Canada forward Cyle Larin tied the game at 1-1, and that same person was screaming and shouting in celebration of the goal. He wasn't alone. By that point, we were all circled around the TV.

This past weekend, I was at a wedding in Georgina. I struck up conversation with two guys watching the Germany-Ivory Coast game on their cell phone outside the church after the service. I've always found soccer to be this universal language with a unique power to bring people together. It's known as the world's game for a reason.

Just like four years ago, I've had double the fun so far – cheering for two teams. Both England and Canada are top of their respective groups through two rounds of play. They've both qualified for the knockout stage, but doing so top of the group should, theoretically, give both favourable match-ups in the first knockout round, which begins June 28.

As things stand, my two home nations are on a collision course to meet in the quarter finals. Though, they both have to win two elimination games before that point. It's unlikely, but possible.

So, who do I cheer for if that eventuality comes to pass? Hand on heart, probably England. But it'd be one of those games where I'd be fine with whoever won.

Because of the later kick-off times, I've been able to watch most games so far. I was disappointed by the exorbitant cost to attend matches in-person. A friend and I saved for years so that we could follow the England team for the tournament – the warchest, I thought, would get us to at least one round robin game and, hopefully, multiple knockout ties. Then FIFA revealed its price structure a little over a year ago and we had to pivot.

So, as well as watching at home I've been taking in games at various establishments. Boshkung Social in Minden has been showing games, as has McKeck's in Haliburton. I've heard both have gotten decent crowds.

While Canada has invested great sums as host, up to $1 billion in public funds, there has been some payoff. The County's tourism manager, Angelica Ingram, said fans travelling to Toronto for games are also venturing north to Haliburton County, bringing much-needed tourism dollars into the community.

For those watching, I hope you're enjoying the games just as much as I am. Go Canada and go England!

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Gratitude and respect

Dear editor,

Haliburton County recently lost one of its most dedicated and respected community leaders with the passing of Murray Fearrey on May 28.

For more than five decades, Murray served the people of Dysart et al and Haliburton County with unwavering commitment, becoming one of the longest-serving municipal politicians in Canada.

His contributions to our region extended far beyond council chambers and municipal meetings. Murray believed deeply in community, collaboration, and the importance of creating opportunities that would strengthen the place we all call home.

At CanoeFM, we remember Murray as an early supporter of community radio and local media. He served on the station's board of directors during the 2003-04 year, when CanoeFM was taking its first steps as a new broadcaster. Those were exciting and challenging times, and Murray was among those who recognized the importance of having a local voice dedicated to sharing community news, local stories, music, and events.

Murray understood that strong communities depend on communication and connection. He appreciated the role that local organizations, volunteers, and community media play in bringing people together and helping residents stay informed and engaged.

Today, more than 20 years after CanoeFM first went on the air, we continue to benefit from the vision and support of community builders like Murray. His willingness to give his time, knowledge, and encouragement helped establish foundations that continue to serve residents across Haliburton County.

On behalf of the board, volunteers, staff, and listeners of 100.9 and 97.1 CanoeFM, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Donna, his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Murray leaves behind a remarkable legacy of public service, community spirit, and leadership. He will be remembered with gratitude and respect.

Canoe FM board 2026 – 2027

Governance and affordability study

Dear editor,

The right questions are being asked by the County under the affordability and governance review.

To date, their data shows residents' top concerns are the cost of living, rising taxes, and a need for real change. That signals change is required, but what change?

Broaden the base. Residential properties carry the majority of the assessment, with too small a commercial base to share the load.

In Haliburton, that weight falls heavily on waterfront owners. You don't fix affordability by leaning harder on the same ratepayers. Actively recruiting new commercial and year-round investment to broaden the tax pool is the fix.

Protect core services. Thirty-five per cent of the 2026 tax increase moved outside of Haliburton (half to the City of Kawartha Lakes), no matter how we are governed. In the County's words, local priorities are being left behind.

Spend in proportion to who pays. If the group generating the most assessment simply subsidizes the rest, that is called redistribution. Not reform.

Cottage owners who pay significant taxes should be asking how proposed changes will affect them. If the plan is to fix the County's math by shifting the burden rather than broadening the base, why bother? If cottagers are to keep funding the base, can they expect a softening of the rules and delays that make it challenging to spend that money locally to build and renovate how and what they want by hiring Haliburton contractors?

There's an election this fall. Ask every candidate the harder questions, not what you've done, but how. What's your plan, your timeline, your track record for growing non-residential assessment? Make them show you. Make them commit in writing.

George Smith Jr.
Kennisis Lake

Resident wants crosswalk

Dear editor,

I was disappointed to learn that the approved crosswalk on Bobcaygeon Road may not move forward despite receiving council approval.

Much of the discussion has focused on the loss of four parking spaces, potential traffic delays, and whether the crossing would be used enough.

While these are valid considerations, they should not outweigh public safety. Residents have raised concerns about near misses, aggressive driving, and feeling unsafe when crossing the road. The experiences of those who regularly walk downtown deserve careful consideration. Some residents may choose not to use the crosswalk, but that does not diminish its value for those who would. Its purpose is not to eliminate every crossing elsewhere, but to provide a safer option where one is needed.

Some have suggested that because there have been no pedestrian fatalities, the project may not be necessary. However, safety measures are meant to prevent tragedies, not respond to them after they occur. The absence of a tragedy today does not remove our responsibility to reduce risks before one happens.

Supporting Minden's downtown requires infrastructure that helps people feel safe and welcome. Streets designed with pedestrians in mind encourage residents and visitors to walk and explore local businesses. A successful community is not measured solely by parking availability or traffic flow. It is measured by how safe, connected, and welcoming it is for the people who live, work, shop, and visit there.

Council has already recognized the value of this project by approving it. Moving it forward would demonstrate a commitment to building a stronger, safer, and more welcoming Minden.

Aurora McGinn
Minden

Clarifying Eastmure honour

Dear editor,

Curtis Eastmure recently received a well-deserved County accessibility award. As chair of the board of our Northern Lights theatre, he responded promptly to a presentation by a member of Aging Well Haliburton County who requested hand rails for the aisles of the theatre as a needed safety and accessibility measure.

Patrons over the proceeding years have responded gratefully. Aging Well Haliburton County was the group which put his name forward for the award, and which had originally urged the need for the hand rails in the theatre.

Aging Well, as it was known, was a volunteer group supported by the health unit and the family health clinic. Begun in 2007, this group initiated a County-wide seniors' needs study. With this information, goals beyond fall prevention were set.

A master plan to aid municipal planning based on World Health Organization criteria for older adults was funded and published. Responding to the critical need for housing, Aging Well sponsored a wide-scale housing summit in 2019, which included housing experts, new research and information. And in 2020, a retirement workshop featuring an excellent updated brochure, which was funded and locally scheduled.

Then COVID hit. Aging Well Haliburton County was one of many worthwhile voluntary organizations Country-wide that did not survive the pandemic. Aging Together as Community, a new volunteer group, sprang to energetic life during COVID in partial response to the public scandals involving long-term care. They offer social and informational programming to Haliburton area older adults.

Margery Cartwright
Dysart

Clarification: our story last week said Aging Together as Community initiated the work. It was Aging Well Haliburton County. We apologize for the error.

Regarding those ads

Dear editor,

Why are people being so mean-spirited about those ads from the Ford government?

Sure, they are making Ontario safer by building more jails, but folks should understand that if the premier's and the cabinets' phone records get subpoenaed, he and some of his associates may be sharing this new accommodation. They're just making sure there are some executive cells with all the mod cons, available to them.

It's a win-win for Ontario.

Douglas Rodger
Irondale

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Randy Moratz said a coyote spooked this deer and it went dashing through his backyard.

Highlander business

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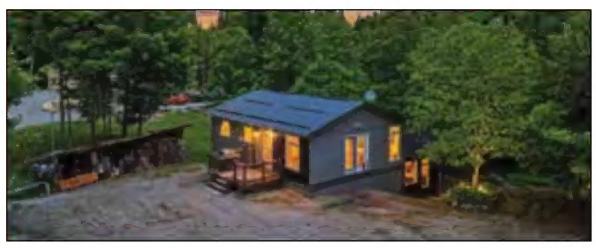

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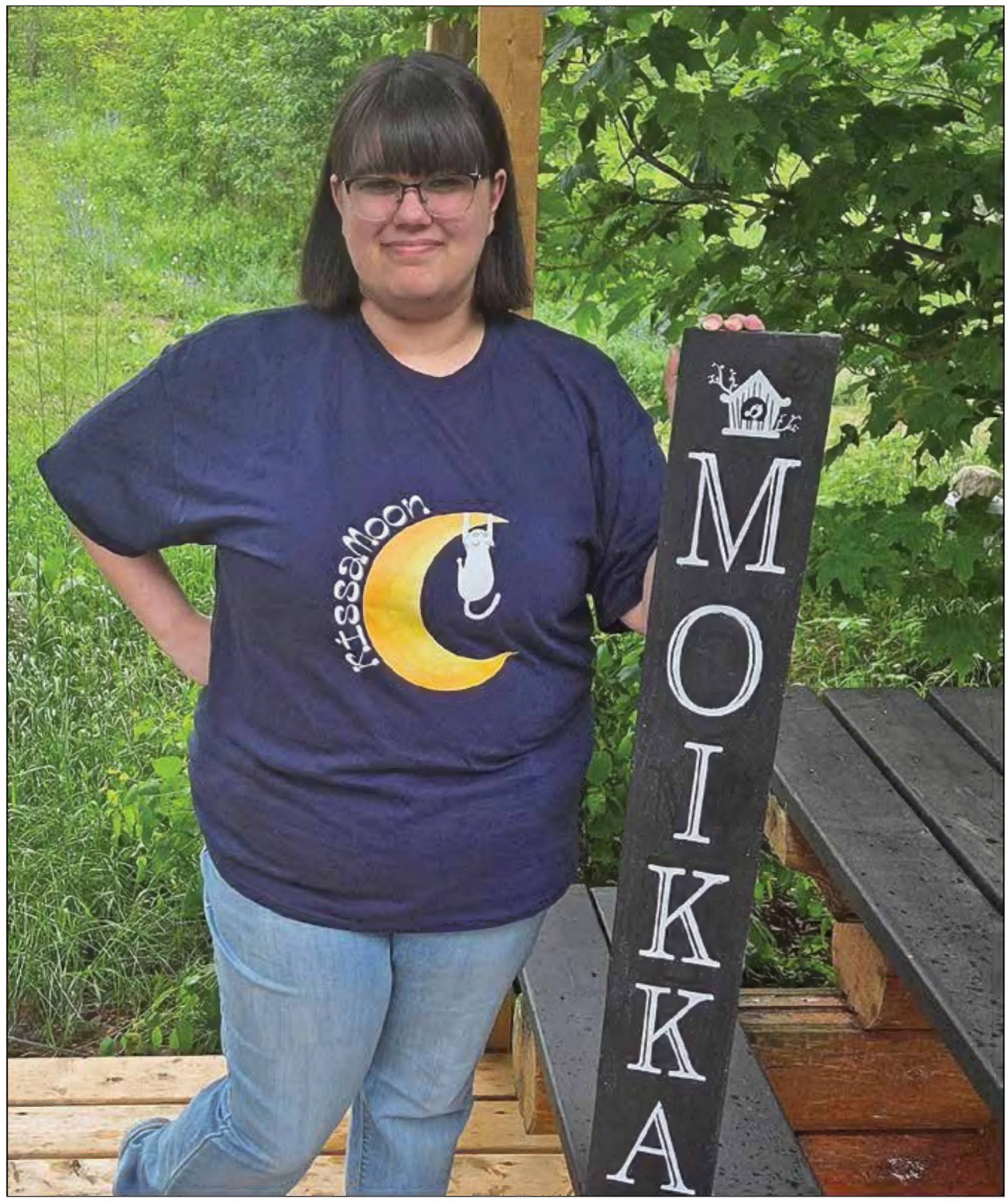

Kendra Korpela is opening a Finnish-based pop-up. *Submitted.*

Local student brings a taste of Finland to County

By Lisa Gervais

This Canada Day, local student entrepreneur Kendra Korpela will officially open the doors to KissaMoon, a Finnish-inspired pop-up shop offering a unique selection of Finnish treats, gifts, and treasures in downtown Haliburton.

Located inside Sourdough & Sausages, KissaMoon is the result of Korpela's participation in Ontario's Summer Company program, which helps young entrepreneurs start and run their own businesses.

KissaMoon will feature Finnish chocolates, candies, snacks, gift items, and other carefully selected products that celebrate Scandinavian culture and heritage.

"Finland has always been an important part of my family's story," Korpela said. "I wanted to create something that shares a little piece of that culture with our community while gaining real-world business experience."

The shop's name combines the Finnish word kissa (cat) with a moon motif inspired by Korpela's beloved cat, Dobby, who has become the unofficial mascot and self-appointed CEO.

As a recent high school graduate preparing to attend Georgian College this fall, Korpela has spent the past several months developing her business plan, building a website, sourcing inventory, creating marketing materials, and preparing for opening day.

"We're excited to bring something a little different to Haliburton," she said. "Whether you have Finnish roots, have visited Finland, or are simply curious to try something new, there's something for everyone at KissaMoon."

KissaMoon officially opens on July 1, and will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.kissamoon.ca or follow KissaMoon on Facebook and Instagram at @KissaMoon. Official.

It's nicer here

Highlander business

Doggone it... new Pet Valu opens

The new Pet Valu in Haliburton village officially opened its doors on June 19. Gayle and Danielle Clements (pictured above) were the first customers through the door at the Hops Drive location. The new store features a larger footprint, more selection of products and a canine grooming station.

Top: Owners Joanne and Dale Orleck (seated) are pictured with staff Ashley Robinson, Donna Thompson, Erin Wilson and Gary Brett. *Photos by Adam Frisk*

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Best opera chops up for national prize

By Mike Baker

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) is celebrating its 20th anniversary in a big way in 2026, with a packed schedule of community performances around the County in August, and the unveiling of a new nationwide competition for opera singers.

Valerie Kuinka, co-artistic director at HOS with her partner, Richard Margison, said registration for the inaugural Vanda Treiser Opera Competition launched on Monday (June 22). Geared towards those who have spent years cultivating their talents, it's open to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants who will be 21 or older as of Oct. 11.

Kuinka said opera singers of all voice types can apply, with the competition carrying a prize pool of $12,500. That's courtesy of a donation from the Vanda Treiser Initiative, Kuinka said.

Based in Quebec, Treiser is the co-president of the Canadian Arts Vocal Institute and has spent years working with the Opéra de Montreal. Kuinka said Treiser has also made major contributions to HOS over the years.

"The impact of Vanda Treiser's commitment to young Canadian opera singers and the many years of support she has provided HOS and other organizations in Quebec cannot be overstated," Kuinka said. "Although she's not part of the local community, Treiser understands the necessity of supporting the year-round community school we have."

She added, "this new annual competition will add another opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of Canadian operatic artists and offer some financial support to a few of the many accomplished Canadian classically-trained singers striving to make a career at home and abroad."

Kuinka said Treiser has financially supported professional training and career development opportunities for many local people since HOS was formed in 2007.

"We are absolutely thrilled to honour Vanda… we are deeply grateful for this remarkable and visionary woman," Kuinka said.

Once registrations close, Kuinka and Margison will assess all video applications and select up to eight finalists, who will be invited to present two arias live at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church in Toronto on Oct. 11. Kuinka said the singers will perform for a five-person jury, with each finalist given 30 minutes of rehearsal time on-stage

Vanda Treiser and Highlands Opera Studio's Val Kuinka have announced a new competition for opera singers. *Submitted.*

First place will win $5,000, with second taking home $3,000 and third place getting $1,500. All other finalists will receive $500, with another $500 earmarked for an audience choice award.

Kuinka said, each summer, HOS provides specialized professional training for emerging Canadian operatic artists, including singers, pianists, composers and production personnel. They are put through a four-week course in the County, culminating in live performances for the community.

Running Aug. 3 to 31, Kuinka said this year there will be 18 program participants at 13 public events. On Aug. 16, HOS is hosting a homecoming concert at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton to mark its 20th anniversary.

"We will have alumni from our first year right up until last year participating, including a celebrity host," Kuinka said. "We'll also be doing an encore of the 'Let's Make Opera' community project we did last year. That will be taking place Aug. 19 at the high school theatre, so, for those who missed it last time, this is your chance to see it."

Other highlights of this year's schedule include a rendition of Puccini's 'Suor Angelica', performed by Lauren Margison Aug. 22 and four performances of Donizetti's 'Don Pasquale' Aug. 27 to 31.

For more information and tickets, visit www.highlandsoperastudio.com.

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York Street Thought Process is duo Rachael Frankruyter and Jaron Camp. *Submitted.*

Folk Society artists for 2026-27 season

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) has announced its artist line-up for the 2026-27 concert series.

The reveal was on CanoeFM last Thursday (June 18) with Sue Shikaze joining Don Gage, co-president of HCFS, and Kris Kadwell, host of Paddling Beyond the Mainstream. They announced the artists, talked a bit about why they chose them, and played selections of their music.

The upcoming series features Juno award-winning and nominated artists, a range of genres, original music, and storytelling, as well as well-established artists and up-and-comers who are just beginning to make their mark on the Canadian music scene, Shikaze said.

"Whether you're familiar with the names or not, you can be sure that you'll leave as a fan of each performer, continuing the HCFS tradition of presenting the best of Canadian music right here in the Haliburton Highlands," she added.

The series kicks off with Juno award-winning band Kobo Town. Formed and fronted by Drew Gonsalves, originally from Trinidad, Kobo Town brings distinct calypso and ska-inspired sound to the Haliburton Legion Oct. 3.

The second show is someone the HCFS is catching at the beginning of what they think promises to be a stellar career in music. Irish Millie is a singer, songwriter and fiddle player from Peterborough who takes the stage Nov. 14 at the Highland Hills United Church.

At just 19 years old, Millie is already making a name for herself. Her music is a high-energy blend of East Coast drive, bluegrass edge, and contemporary trad with a distinct Celtic pop rock energy. She is a seven-time Canadian Folk Music Award nominee, including two 2026 nominations for young performer of the year, and single of the year.

Show number three is York Street Thought Process, who will kick off February Folk Fest Feb. 6, 2027 in the club room at the Haliburton Legion. York Street Thought Process is duo Jaron Camp and Rachael Frankruyter. Shikaze said they have captured the hearts of audiences across Canada with their playful approach to folk music, blending strong storytelling with improvisation. They have performed at the Mariposa Folk Festival and Winnipeg Folk Festival, proving they're on their way to establishing themselves in the music scene. They caught the attention of HCFS at the 2025 Folk Music Ontario conference, where they were part of the emerging artist program.

On April 2, show number four at the Haliburton Legion features the Slocan Ramblers.

They are a Juno-nominated bluegrass band rooted in tradition, fearlessly creative with a bold, dynamic sound, who have become a leading light of today's acoustic music scene, Shikaze said. The Slocans performed in the County in 2015, and Shikaze noted they are excited to welcome them back "with their energetic live show, impeccable musicianship and an uncanny ability to convert anyone within earshot into a lifelong fan."

The series wraps up with singer-songwriter Martin Kerr June 5, 2027 at Highland Hills United Church. Martin is a folk troubadour "for the post-truth age. His outspoken and poetic takes blend urgent issues of the day with deeply personal narratives, in honest and nostalgic folk arrangements that invite you to sing along," the folk society said.

He has done some controversial rewrites of classic songs like *God Rest Ye Merry Billionaires, Away in Bomb Shelters, and What's Up America*? being adopted as anthems for justice and democracy. Shikaze is expecting a captivating live performance, peppered with Martin's dry British humour.

Series passes, and tickets to individual shows, are available at haliburtonfolk.com.

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Highlander arts

Adding beauty to Haliburton's main street

By Mike Baker

Visiting artists from across Ontario have helped spruce up Haliburton's main street for the summer, with seven new creations unveiled last week as part of the annual downtown sculpture exhibition.

Now into its eighth year, the exhibition serves as a standalone accessory to the Haliburton Sculpture Forest said longtime curator, Jim Blake. The idea is that people spot the pieces in the downtown and take time to analyze and reflect on what each creation means to them. Even better if it directs people to the sculpture forest, located within Glebe Park, Blake said.

"I just love coming down the street and seeing the sculptures here. It's one of those things where some people may not notice them, but for those that do they really seem to love them," Blake said. "It really brightens up our downtown and gives it some character."

This year's show features one local submission and six pieces from artists from Toronto, Guelph, Mono, Erin, Elora and Douro. Blake said there were 24 applications from 17 artists.

He noted the jury always thinks about "what will look best on our main street" and take into account artistic merit, structural integrity and ability to withstand natural elements, being located outside for several months. The exhibit was installed last Thursday (June 18) and will remain in place until Oct. 25.

The tour begins at Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre with Jenn Wanless-Craig and Terry Craig's 'Delicate Nature', a 49-piece display where they recreated wildflowers like milkweed, black-eyed Susan and fireweed in glass form.

Garrett Gilbart has two steel sculptures outside Corner Gallery. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

The Tory Hill couple have been glassblowing for several years and usually spend their summers on the provincial arts and craft show circuit, but an injury to Terry earlier this year altered their plans.

Wanless-Craig said their piece is "something we decided to do for ourselves, to make us feel alive again." She said the idea was to shine a light on the beauty of wildflowers that most take for granted.

"These flowers are beautiful but are often overlooked or discarded. We wanted to work with the colours to make them really stand out," Wanless-Craig said, noting they used deep shades of pink, purple and yellow.

Toronto's Jungle Ling has been an artist for almost 30 years, with his first public mural completed in 1999. Blake said he's seen Ling's work in the city for years, with an archway close to a parkette where Blake has a property a particular highlight.

Ling's 'The Squatter' is installed on the corner of Highland and York streets, near the Cenotaph. It's made completely from reclaimed steel Ling found at the city dump.

In front of Wind in the Willows sits 'The Bird Woman' from Holly Atkinson. While she typically works with bronze, having worked in a foundry for more than 32 years, the artist said she merged wood, cement and steel rod for the foundation and utilized different textiles and paints to finish.

"It's pained four different colours on each side to represent different types of bird," Atkinson said.

Angela Burdon will be a familiar name to fans of the exhibit, with her 2025 piece 'Botanical Canoe' popular last year. This time, she used winterstone for 'Choose Life, Choose Love' located in front of Fiore Verde. She said the sculpture is a commentary on how youth today are influenced by violent video games and negative news stories.

One interesting element, Burdon said, is that she expects it to change colour over the summer.

"The paint I used has a bronze powder ground into it. So, as it's exposed to the elements – the sun and the rain, the piece will keep evolving," Burdon said.

Rosalinde Baumgartner has also featured in the exhibit before and entered her painted clay sculpture 'Georgina', located in front of the Bank of Montreal. Michelle DuQuesnay's 'Echo of Wilderness' can be found in front of Algonquin Outfitters, with two Garrett Gilbart steel sheet pieces, titled 'Corvus', at Corner Gallery.

Blake confirmed all pieces are available to purchase, with pricing available at www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca.

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Toronto resident and longtime Haliburton cottager Andrew Dunsmore poses for a photo with a retired Dysart fire truck in B.C. *Submitted photo by R. Puxon Barnes*

Dysart fire truck found in ghost town

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For longtime Haliburton cottager Andrew Dunsmore, making a pitstop on a lengthy road trip is a part of the journey. But when he decided to take a break and stretch his legs during a trip out west, it turned into a mind-bending brush with home.

While on an RV trip from Calgary to Vancouver with his friend Robert Barnes in May, the pair decided to take a break at Three Valley Gap Lake Chateau and Ghost Town, just outside of Revelstoke, B.C. The guys were just finishing up their walking tour of the historic, open-air museum when they came across a small collection of vintage vehicles, including fire trucks.

Dunsmore told *The Highlander* that he had walked right past the first truck on display without taking a second look. But Barnes, who had visited Dunsmore's family cottage many times, noticed a familiar word on the faded paint.

"Dysart," Dunsmore recalled his friend saying. "Isn't Dysart where Haliburton is?"

The Toronto resident turned back to the truck and went in for a closer look.

"I looked at it, and I was just dumbfounded," Dunsmore said with a chuckle. "I was like, 'yes, absolutely. There can only be one Dysart.' And we went around and looked at the front of the truck, and there we could see the words Haliburton, which confirmed it. It absolutely blew my mind. You just don't expect to see anything to do with Haliburton in the middle of B.C."

Dunsmore said the discovery brought a wave of nostalgia over him and explained that while his family has lived all over Canada, Haliburton has always been their anchor. It's a place his mother still calls home.

"It didn't matter if we lived in Toronto or Montreal or wherever, we would always come back to the cottage for the summer. So it is sort of a second home for me," he said. "I know lots of local people just from having had summer jobs at the Pinestone and different places over the years."

While the truck's existence out west might surprise many ex-pats; its history is no secret to former Haliburton fire chief Miles Maughan, as he was the one who decommissioned the vehicle.

Purchased by Dysart et al in 1972, the truck served as a front-line pumper for about two decades before being retired in 1992. Maughan, who drove and operated the engine for 15 years, explained what happened to the truck after retiring it from calls.

"It was still operating, so a fellow in the County bought it because he thought he was going to set up a mobile washing centre with it," Maughan explained. "But he got a full-time job and didn't have time, so it kind of sat around for a couple of years there."

From there, the man sold the vehicle to a collector out west who operated a tow truck company. The B.C. collector brought a truck across the country to Ontario, picked up the retired Dysart pumper, and towed it all the way back to the province, Maughan explained.

Then, museum owner George Bell acquired the truck through some good old-fashioned bartering.

"I had a buddy back east, who got it out here," Bell told *The Highlander*. "I had some storage, he stored some stuff here, and then he threw the fire truck at me."

The 1972 pumper represented a specific era of firefighting technology with one feature that modern trucks no longer use, such as the quick-attack hose reel.

"In the picture you can see, they had a hose reel on them at that time," Maughan noted. "You could grab one of them hose reels, pull it out, and spray a fire down within minutes."

Today, the climate and natural elements have taken a toll on the old truck.

"The footwell, like where you would put your foot to hoist yourself up into the truck, it was nothing but rust," Dunsmore said.

Bell echoed Dunsmore's observations, noting that the mountain moisture has had its way with the former workhorse.

"Especially out here, we're in quite a moist area, so things deteriorate," Bell noted. The truck still features the original hoses it retired with.

"It's so good to get it right from the fire department because you get all the goodies," he said.

As for Dunsmore, he said that he was just thrilled to share the somewhat bizarre discovery with the County and to sort of surprise his mother when she opens the newspaper.

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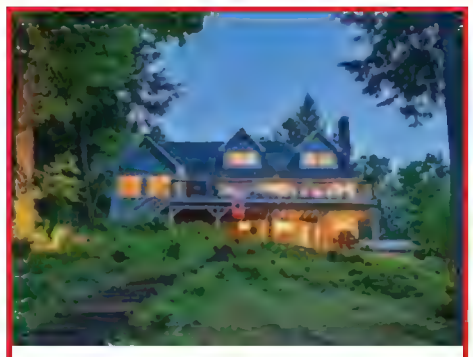

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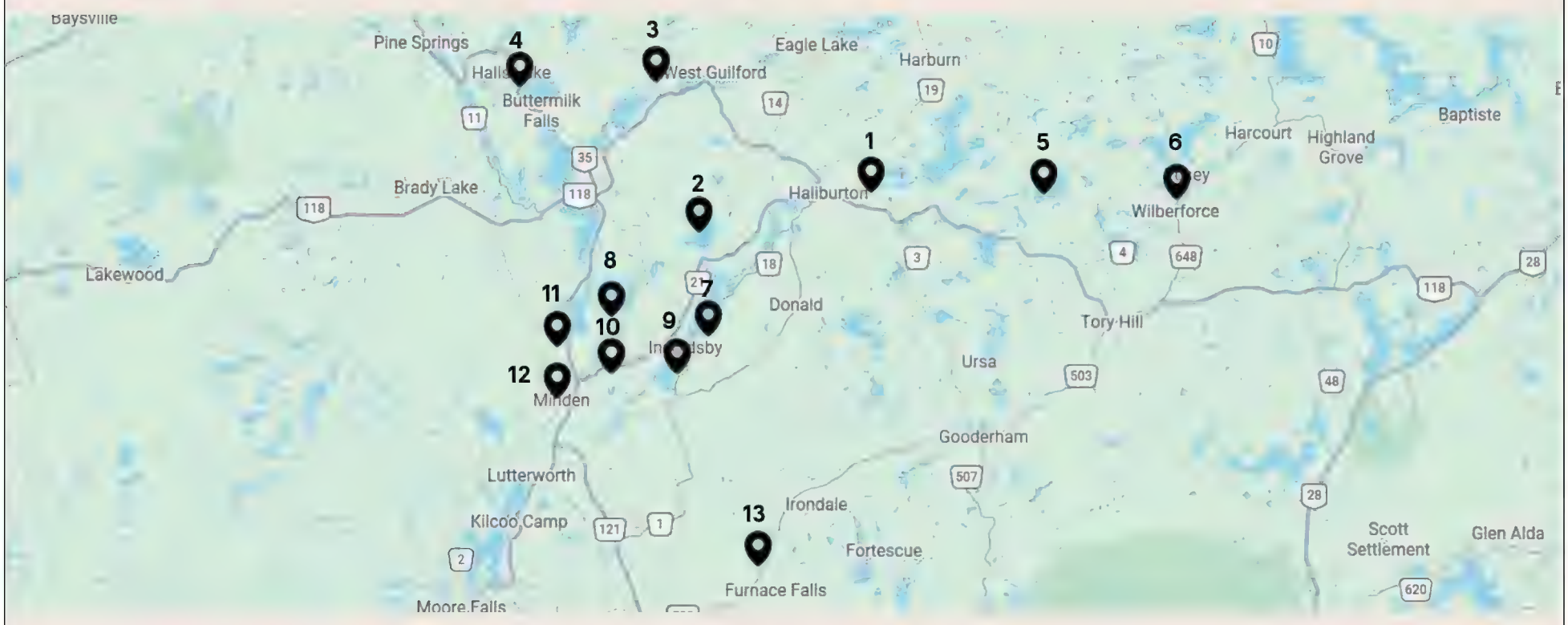

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3. GULL RIVER, 1082 GREEN LAKE ROAD, ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
4. HALLS LAKE, 1035 HARVEST MOON LANE, ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
5. MISKWABI LAKE, 1119 WAMPUM ROAD, HALIBURTON
6. 2315 LOOP ROAD, WILBERFORCE
7. 1630 KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE ROAD, MINDEN
8. WALKER'S POND, 1003 PONTIAC DRIVE, MINDEN
9. CANNING LAKE, 1219 MARATHON DRIVE, MINDEN
10. 1523 COUNTY ROAD 21, MINDEN
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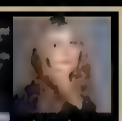

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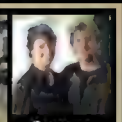

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Long Lake Living! $499,000
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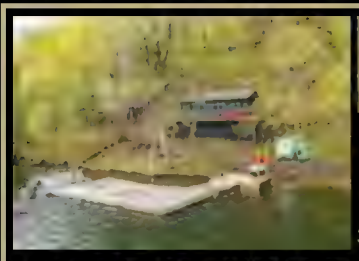

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Long Lake Gem! $524,999
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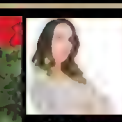

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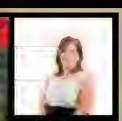
OPEN HOUSE



Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

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Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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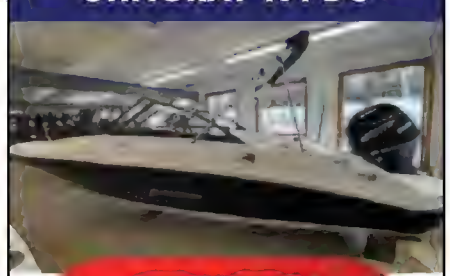

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Calling all warriors to come out and play

By Mike Baker

Youth Unlimited Haliburton Highlands is trying to bridge the gap for low-income families wanting to enroll their children in hockey, launching a new grassroots club in Haliburton village.

The Haliburton Warriors Hockey Club will start playing this fall. Founder Leanne Young, who runs the Bridge Youth Centre in town with her husband, Kyle, said the team will feature boys from Grades 4-6 in its first year.

After putting her 10-year-old son through Highland Storm hockey for the past four seasons, Young said the cost and unrelenting schedule were taking a toll on her family. After talking to other moms throughout the season and connecting with hockey enthusiasts at public skates through the winter, she felt there was enough demand to support another program.

"We probably spent $4,000-5,000 this year on hockey for our one son, which is a lot of money. It also felt like driving became our entire lives. We were on the road three days a week at least," Young said. "Now, my youngest son is getting to the point where he wants to start hockey and there's no way we have the money or time to have two kids playing.

"With gas prices going up, it was costing us $20 to get to Gooderham and back. Then you have food to pay for, because games are always around dinner or lunch time," she added.

She believes in the benefits of organized hockey – teaching kids about teamwork, respect and discipline. That will form the basis of the Warriors program, she said.

"I think if you teach boys how to be men of integrity, how to work together and be committed to something, then that definitely helps their future development," Young said. "Since my son started playing, he's speaking up more in class, he's become a leader, confident and calm in tough situations. We've seen a big change in him.

"I see other boys needing that kind of positive influence. Kids have told me they want to play hockey but can't afford it. We want to change that."

The Bridge Youth Centre's Leanne Young and volunteer coach Kelly Short have announced the arrival of the Haliburton Warriors Hockey Club. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

The program will run for 16 weeks beginning Oct. 16. Sessions will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The cost is $220 per person, with 24 spots available.

Volunteer Kelly Short will serve as lead coach with locals Steve Belanger, Graham Borgdorff and Paul Adams assisting. There will also be a couple of older teenagers from the Bridge helping out.

Short said the first half of the weekly meets will focus on skill development, with the second half on games and scrimmages. He coached with the Highland Storm for two years after moving to the Highlands in 2018 but found the travel to games to be too much.

He's been volunteering with the Bridge Youth Centre for about a year, helping out with pancake breakfasts. He said he was happy to help on the hockey side after Young approached him earlier this year.

Short feels this new program is an ideal way for parents to introduce their children to hockey.

"Hockey is such a great team sport. It brings camaraderie, teaches many aspects of life they need to learn like hard work and respect," Short said.

Young said the hope is to expand the program to other age groups, and girls, in the future.

Anyone interested in registering can do so by contacting Young at leanne@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

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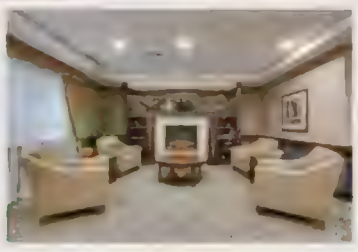

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Highlander community

Municipality of Dysart et al
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000

Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000

Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000

Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000

Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act

are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/ tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale. Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector

The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde

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P.O. Box 389
Haliburton, ON, K0M1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca | www.dysartetal.ca

CFN provides $2.1M in needed support

By Mike Baker

Central Food Network (CFN) delivered over $2.1 million worth of value to its clients across Highlands East via food packages, prepared meals, heating support, hydro assistance and free tax clinics in 2025-26.

Speaking at the organization's annual general meeting May 28, executive director Tina Jackson said it had been another challenging 12 months for CFN as staff and volunteers tried to meet the needs of struggling locals.

During the previous fiscal year, which ran April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, CFN fed an average of 260 people per month. In total, they assisted 670 different people – representing 17 per cent of Highlands East's population.

"That is significant and heartbreaking," Jackson said. "Beyond food insecurity, we are seeing dramatic increases in demand for other support. In many ways, 2025 felt like we were hit with a tidal wave, particularly in the heat bank program where calls for support increased 58 per cent."

After 25 years working in the sector, Jackson said she's never seen things as desperate as they are today.

"Organizations like ours have stretched every available dollar, volunteer hour and ounce of goodwill to respond to the growing community need. But the scale and complexity of that need continues to evolve rapidly," she said. "We expect concerns around food, fuel and energy affordability to deepen going into the latter part of 2026 and 2027."

The organization is in good shape financially to handle the load. As of its year-end, CFN had $180,000 in cash reserves – a $49,000 increase from last year. While expenses climbed to $314,000 from $272,000 year over year, revenues also went up 18 per cent to $355,000.

Jackson said 81 per cent of CFN's expenses were spent directly on programs, with 16 per cent on staff and three per cent on fundraising.

There were several key departures at the board level, with chair Nancy Wright-Laking stepping down after seven years of service and Christine Sharp after five years. They have been replaced by new recruits Kathy Smith, Dan Chan and Nicole Baxter Bradford, though Jackson said there's still room for more new blood.

"Board leadership can happen quietly behind the scenes, but those who put in the hours have a profound impact on their community. We're always looking for people to step forward," Jackson said.

Anyone interested can contact tina@centralfoodnetwork.org.

Highlander community

Abbey Gardens pivoting towards wellness

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Abbey Gardens has unveiled a refreshed brand identity, pivoting toward a deep, nature-based wellness model to secure the organization's long-term sustainability in a post-pandemic economy.

The Haliburton Highlands' charitable organization rebrand is a shift away from high-volume visitation toward slow-paced, boutique programming.

"People are changing their habits," executive director Angela Kruger explained to *The Highlander*. "And things that are more meaningful to them have changed as well."

Kruger said that the rebrand is less about inventing something new and more about returning to the organization's roots.

"So I think that, in fact, what the rebrand is, is perhaps truer to what Abbey Gardens was right at the onset," she said. "We're kind of returning back to using nature as our teacher."

Kruger noted that the timing of the rebrand was strategic, with the changing of consumer habits post-pandemic, and the economic uncertainty, people are eager to seek more meaningful experiences.

"So our shift is to introduce experiences that kind of get people away from everyday life and just get them out enjoying nature," she said. "And, in fact, that's wellness, right? Wellness in nature."

People participate in a mushroom workshop at Abbey Gardens. *Submitted.*

While Abbey Gardens is a registered charity and remains free for the public to enter, in order to keep operations sustainable, the organization is leaning into its food hub and tourism background to create dedicated, paid revenue streams, with a series of slow-paced, immersive experiences.

These new experiences include forest bathing (Shinrin-yoku), hands-on mushroom workshops, and music in the forest. Kruger said a highlight of these programs is the community aspect. "Experience culminates in an intimate farm-to-table community meal, thoughtfully curated by Abbey Gardens' team and shared together on the porch.

"We'll be just, basically, expanding the immersive experience into the porch because everybody will be communal, eating together," Kruger said.

The meals are crafted by the in-house Abbey Gardens kitchen team, using produce grown on-site, as well as ingredients from local partners. The season's first event, Busiate alla Trapanese: A taste of Italy in the Haliburton Highlands, took place June 13 and was a sell-out.

Beyond culinary and wellness events, Kruger and Abbey Gardens' ecologist, Cara Steele, are working to finalize guided ecology walks and hands-on climate experiences designed to give visitors practical tools for their own properties, including demonstrations on alternate ground covers and native plant gardens built to withstand drought-like conditions.

"We have a ton of information and gardens that we can walk people through and show them what they can do on their own properties if they want to choose something to help protect the climate," Kruger said.

A new logo for Abbey Gardens was also created as part of its rebrand, which features lines that were inspired by the winding road through the property, the surrounding forests, and water. It's paired with the "living landscape" colour palette.

The executive director said that the rebrand sets the stage in the long term for a much broader geographical reach.

"This is setting the stage that we want to become a destination," Kruger said. "So, that will be leaning towards tourism and getting people on-site, sharing our landscape and our abundance of nature with urban areas. I think it's the start of a shift where we're maybe opening ourselves up to a broader area."

Immersive programming details and registration info can be found on the Abbey Gardens website.

VALERIE KUINKA
Vanda Treiser General & Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON
Co-Artistic Director

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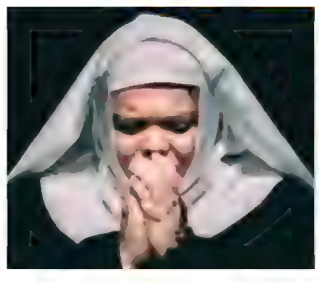

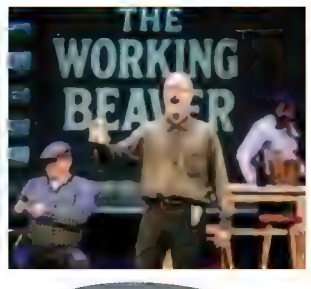

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HighlandsOperaStudio.com BOX OFFICE 1-855-455-5533

MASTERCLASS

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS
Tuesday, August 4th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *ENCORE*
Back by popular demand! 4 NEW SHORT OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County created and performed by local artists. (Community School opera creation project fully funded in 2025 by OTF).
Wednesday, August 19th 7:30-9:30pm

SUOR ANGELICA + STAGED SCENES (TBD)
Featuring HOS Alum, soprano LAUREN MARGISON, as a special guest in Puccini's one act tragic masterpiece, this powerful work explores universal themes of maternal love, struggles with faith, and redemption in the face of great sorrow.
Combined with additional fully staged short scenes from various operas (TBD), join us for a powerful and engaging evening of opera!
Saturday, August 22nd | 7:30-9:30pm

DON PASQUALE - DONIZETTI
One of the zaniest and most loved of all Donizetti's operas, this three-act comic opera follows the fortunes of young Ernesto, recently disinherited by his wealthy, cranky uncle, Don Pasquale, for refusing an arranged marriage in favour of the penniless widow Norina. A hilarious sit-com for all ages. Find out if love wins in the end!
August 27th, 29th, 31st | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 30th | 2:00-4:30pm
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

HOMECOMING: GALA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sunday, August 16th 2:00-4:15pm
Join HOS Alums who are some of Canada's best professional singers, along with celebrity guests, in a retrospective musical celebration featuring opera, musical theatre and more!

CONCERTS

OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, August 6th | 7:30-9:00pm
Favourite solos and ensembles from opera and musical theatre featuring the HOS 2026 professional program participants.

POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 13th | 7:30-9:00pm
Selections from opera, operetta, and musical theatre presented by the HOS 2026 professional program participants.
All concerts presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 8th 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
WATER ACCESS ONLY

#2: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 11th 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

#3: CANADIAN COMPOSER'S WORKSHOP
Tuesday, August 25th 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

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Granite Realty Group Inc.

Andrew Hodgson, Broker
Call or Text 705-854-0130
andrew.hodgson@century21.ca
andrewhodgsonrealestate.com

ANDREW HODGSON
REAL ESTATE

JUST REDUCED!

LITTLE HAWK LAKE $2,000,000
Historic Oakview Lodge & Marina offers 8,500 SF main lodge with 6 suites, private 3-bedroom owner's apartment, guest cottage, 2-car garage with loft & 60-slip marina.

NEW LISTING!

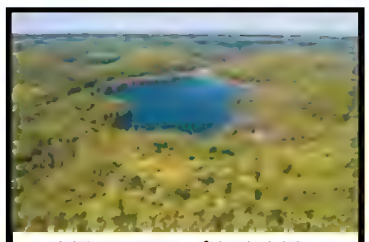
KASHAGAWIGAMOG LK $1,599,000
5-bedroom, 3-bath waterfront home with 108' of shoreline, eastern exposure, a walkout lower level, oversized double garage, seasonal bunkie. Plus a 8+ acre back lot!

SERVICE CENTRE $1,249,000
Turnkey gas station and convenience store in Wilberforce featuring gas & diesel sales, LCBO & OLG licensing, a bottle return depot, propane refilling & extensive upgrades.

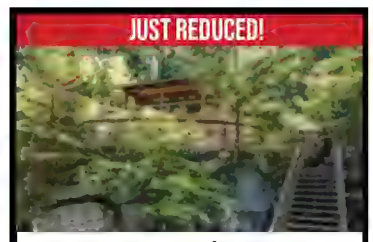
PARADISE LAKE $999,000
3 bedroom, 3-bath waterfront home featuring 138' of shoreline, southern exposure, a walkout lower level, attached double garage, lakefront fire pit, hot tub, & private dock!

HALIBURTON LAKE $989,000
4-season 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage sitting on the lake's edge with a clean sand shoreline, a spacious bunkie adding to your living space & an oversized heated garage with loft.

HIGHLAND ST $969,000
Exceptional investment opportunity in Haliburton Village: main street gas station, propane station, tire shop, upper-level apartment & commercial zoning for business growth.

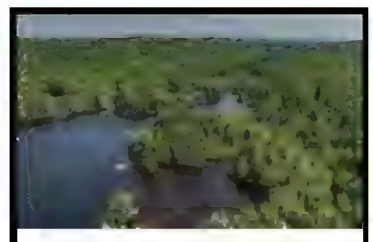


COCKLE LAKE $899,000
131-acre parcel featuring 3,000' of undeveloped frontage with a sand beach, rock point, and natural area & trails throughout to explore just minutes from Wilberforce.

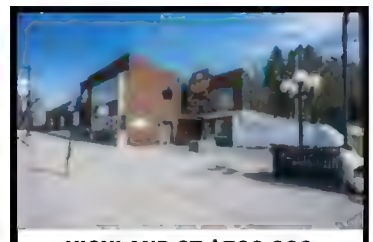


JUST REDUCED!

CANNING LAKE $899,000
Private 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home with western sunsets, open-concept living, finished lower level, lakeside Bunkie, & more — on Haliburton's most sought after 5-lake chain.



SOYERS LAKE $899,000
Private point lot on a 5-lake chain with 530' of frontage, unbelievable sunsets, exclusive access to a small island & boating across Haliburton's most sought-after 5-lake chain.



HIGHLAND ST $799,000
4,000 sq. ft. mixed-use commercial building in downtown Haliburton with 3 long-term tenants, recent upgrades, excellent visibility, and a prime in-town corner-lot!

JUST SOLD!

[illegible] $7[illegible]
[illegible] backing onto Glebe Park trails with a boat slip on Head Lake.

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LK $739,000
3 bedroom, 3 bath home in a private lakefront community, featuring vaulted ceilings, a spacious deck, oversized attached garage, & access to exceptional waterfront amenities.

NEW LISTING!

COUNTY ROAD 21 $700,000
68-acres with extensive frontage on County Road 21 & Soyers Lake Road, hydro and Bell services at the road, & excellent development or recreational potential.

JUST REDUCED!

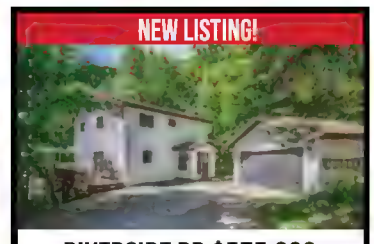
LONG LAKE $649,000
Discover the perfect balance of privacy & potential on this 52-acre property with 700' of private waterfront & a 3 bedroom cottage to enjoy while you plan for the future.

NEW LISTING!

SOYERS LAKE RD $600,000
13.5-acre parcel between Haliburton & Minden with over 1,200' of frontage on County Road 21, additional frontage on Soyers Lake Rd & excellent development potential.

HIGHWAY 35 $599,000
Rustic yet modern 4-bedroom, 2-bath cabin on 80 private acres with trails, wetlands, wildlife, Crown Land access, & easy year-round access—ideal for nature lovers!

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LK $599,000
Beautiful townhome in a private community on Haliburton's premier 5-lake chain featuring 2,765 SF across 3 levels, with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths & an attached 2-car garage.

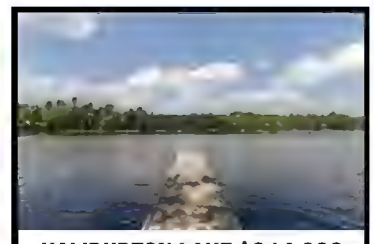


NEW LISTING!

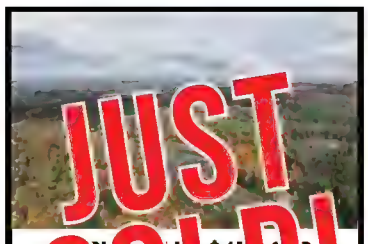
RIVERSIDE DR $575,000
3 bedroom, 3-bath in-town home featuring a renovated kitchen, numerous recent upgrades, a finished lower level, expansive outdoor living space, & detached garage.

JUST SOLD!

[illegible] $4[illegible]
[illegible] just over 800 sf [illegible] comfortable living space. Just a short walk from Pine Lake beach!



HALIBURTON LAKE $314,000
Waterfront building lot featuring a clean sandy shoreline, elevated building site with lake views, year-round road access, driveway installed & hydro at the lot line!



JUST SOLD!

[illegible] $17[illegible]
[illegible] serene [illegible] sit [illegible] trails. Private yet accessible, just 10 minutes from Haliburton Village.

HIGHWAY 118 $175,000
2-acre building lot 20 mins from Haliburton Village with a gated entrance, cleared & level terrain, existing driveway, & excellent privacy with services at the lot line.

PT 1 BUCKSLIDE RD $155,000
Newly severed 2-acre building lot offering year-round access, hydro & Bell at the lot line, a designated driveway location, a private building site, & a peaceful pond setting.

PT 2 BUCKSLIDE RD $155,000
2-acre RR zoned building lot offering year-round access, services at the lot line, multiple driveway & build site options with excellent privacy, and close proximity to lakes & trails.

TEDIOUS LAKE WAO $99,000
Water-access only lot on a peaceful Lake offering over half an acre with 171' of shoreline, southwest exposure, & a private natural setting just mins from a public boat launch.

THINKING ABOUT REAL ESTATE? LET'S TALK.

Whether you're considering selling your home, cottage, or property, looking for an up-to-date market evaluation, or simply want expert advice on where and how to invest, I'm here to help every step of the way.

No pressure—just honest guidance and local expertise you can trust.

Reach out anytime to discuss your real estate goals.

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Fabulously rich ice cream hits stores

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

He said, "I'm tragically… chip?"

Kawartha Dairy released its latest flavour on Monday (June 22), bringing together two iconic fixtures in Canadian culture, just in time for Canada Day.

The family-owned ice cream maker and legendary rock band The Tragically Hip partnered to release a limited-edition, premium ice cream concoction dubbed The Tragically Chip, a name the dairy's head office said was an immediate frontrunner that the band approved right away.

Armed with will, determination, and grace too, customers lined up to get their hands on the maple whisky flavoured ice cream at the Minden Kawartha Dairy on Monday afternoon.

Kawartha Dairy and The Hip announced the partnership in mid-spring, which coincides with two notable milestones for the region, adding another feather in one's fifty-mission cap. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the village of Bobcaygeon, as well as the 10th anniversary of The Tragically Hip's historic final cross-country farewell tour with the late frontman Gord Downie.

According to Kawartha Dairy, the partnership was born from a mutual love of small-town Canada and summer memories by the lake.

"We are delighted to be releasing this amazing flavour in the same year as Bobcaygeon's 150th anniversary because honestly, without Bobcaygeon, there simply wouldn't be a Kawartha Dairy," Mike Crowe, third-generation owner and director of product development, said.

The collaboration also relies on a shared history with Bobcaygeon itself. The dairy provider was founded in the town nearly 90 years ago. Fast-forward to the late '90s, the town served as inspiration for the Kingston rockers' Juno award-winning song, *Bobcaygeon*.

While Kawartha Dairy said it proposed the initial concept, the surviving members of The Hip and their families were actively involved in taste-testing the final product to ensure it hit all the right notes.

For day trippers and cottagers alike, a trip to the County, and The Hip providing the soundtrack, a pitstop in Minden for some ice cream has been a long-time tradition.

"This is year 72," Cathie Gauthier, a London, Ont., resident, told *The Highlander*. "My parents brought me up when I was three years old... that's how long we've been coming."

When asked what the ice cream parlour meant to her after all these years, Cathie summarized it as "summer and fun," while her husband, Bob Gauthier, said it simply boils down to "tradition."

The couple, who used to own property on Halls Lake and now rents regional properties, said that the Kawartha Dairy in Minden was the anchor point for the family.

"When our kids were small, the deal was we would go to church and they'd always come here after," Bob recalled. "Two years ago, we were up here with our grandchildren and our daughter's family. And it was the same deal, we went to church and came here."

Paul and Janice Rose at the Kawartha Dairy in Minden. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

As for the new ice cream, it seemed The Tragically Chip was hitting all the right notes.

"It's delicious so far. I mean, I'm a big fan of chocolate and cherries," said cottager Janice Rose. And when asked which ingredient stands out the most, Rose noted: "Probably the whisky, I think."

Moe Genore, a self-described "big Hip fan," also acknowledged the distinct flavour of the ice cream.

"You can definitely taste the bourbon, so you can taste a bit of alcohol," she said. "And then the cherries and chocolate chips, yeah. It's very good."

When asked to pick a Hip song that pairs with the bold flavour, Rose went immediately to the local connection.

"The first [song] that came to mind was *Bobcaygeon*," she said.

Genore pointed to a different classic, suggesting that *Blow at High Dough* was a better match to the flavour.

The rollout of The Tragically Chip ice cream includes a charitable component, with Kawartha Dairy and the Hip donating a portion of retail proceeds from the flavour to the Breakfast Club of Canada, a national non-profit organization dedicated to funding school breakfast programs for children.

"Both The Tragically Hip and Kawartha Dairy have a history of supporting organizations that work to help make our communities stronger," Crowe said. "As food insecurity continues to be an issue among Canadians, a portion of the sales of The Tragically Chip will support Breakfast Club of Canada and the amazing work they do to ensure Canadian kids have access to a nutritious breakfast.

The charitable aspect came as a welcome surprise to many customers. The Rose family, who actively volunteer making school lunches in the city, noted that the donation makes the product even more meaningful.

"They should advertise that more," Rose said, adding that knowing the proceeds support the charity "absolutely" makes the ice cream taste sweeter.

Hi

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

What's on

Historic local landmark reopens for tours

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton Highlands Museum's Kate Butler at the recently reopened Reid House. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

For the first time in seven years, visitors to the Haliburton Highlands Museum will be able to learn all about, and see firsthand, the story of one of the community's early settlers, the Reid family.

The historic Reid House, constructed in 1882, reopened for tours over the May long weekend. Located on the museum grounds in Glebe Park, the exhibit unpacks the history of the home dating back to its original owner, John Russell Reid II, who was a carpenter in town.

He moved to Haliburton in 1871 with his parents, John and Amy, who emigrated from London, England.

"The Reid family never would have imagined in a million years that their story would be told in a museum… but theirs and the museum's paths are completely intertwined," said Kate Butler, the museum's director. "The earliest days of the museum were in this house. It's been part of our story all the way along."

Descendants of the Reid family lived in the house until the 1960s, when it was put up for sale by Jean Reid, widow of John Reid III. Haliburton Rotary fundraised to buy the property, located near where the tennis courts are in Head Lake Park, wanting to turn it into a museum. It opened in 1968.

The museum ran for a dozen years in its old location overlooking Head Lake. Then known as the Haliburton Highlands Pioneer Museum, each room was a tribute to a prominent family from the town's early beginnings, Butler said.

When a new museum was announced for Glebe Park, opening July 1, 1980, the decision was made to bring Reid House along for the ride. The century home was transported by truck to its current location beside the main exhibit at 66 Museum Rd.

"Any time the house has a quirk or something unexplained, I have to think to myself that it was literally picked up, put on the back of a truck and driven over here," Butler said. "The fact the house has survived all these years is amazing."

Butler said the museum has remained in touch with members of the Reid family and is always looking for family heirlooms. One made its way back to the County eight or nine years ago – a rocking chair Jean Reid sold during one of her many garage sales that had found its way to Alberta.

Asked about her favourite piece in the exhibit, Butler said she likes the corner cabinet in the kitchen because of the memories it draws out of visitors.

"I hear so many stories from people who remember similar units their parents or grandparents had. That's a huge part of what museums do – telling stories from the past that spark connection and conversation," she said.

Reid House was last open for a full season in 2019. It was closed through much of the pandemic and, once restrictions lifted, staff found the building needed multiple fixes, including a new roof. That work was completed last fall, with the space reopening May 18.

Butler said there are some new items on display, including recycled pieces that have been in storage for several years.

"The house looks fuller than it did before. Our goal is to make it look as lived in as possible," Butler said, with two staging areas downstairs and more upstairs. "This summer, we're just delighted to have Reid House open again. We know people have been curious to get back in there. Our focus for the summer is just to welcome everyone back."

A popular site for paranormal investigators, Butler said there are plans for another supernatural event later this year.

"They have had some unexplained things happen inside the house. Apparently, the building has a lot of spirits in it," Butler said. "We are still trying to figure out if the spirits here are connected to the house."

Reid House is open for tours through summer by donation Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

A PODCAST ABOUT ALL THINGS LOCAL

AVAILABLE AT THEHIGHLANDER.CA
AND ANYWHERE YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS

THIS WEEK:
Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?

Artist to host 'golden owl celebration'

By Lisa Gervais

Biljana Banchotova Webb is having a 50th birthday party this July – and is inviting neighbours, artists, elders, children "and dreamers" to a five-day ceremony of art, story, music "and belonging."

She's calling it the 'golden owl celebration'.

She said the gathering is rooted in the land she owns in Tory Hill and 50 years of "creative becoming."

Banchotova Webb is founding director of SpiralGate of Art and Well-Being and the Frog Hollow Integrative Art Experience (FHIAE). She was born on July 8, 1976, in South Africa. She said both endeavours are "a living creative sanctuary nestled in the Haliburton Highlands, encompassing Whirling Wisdom Art Studio — a multidisciplinary indoor arts and teaching space — and Frog Hollow Gardens, an outdoor ecosystem rich with ceremony, ecological teaching, and community gathering."

She added FHIAE is a community, not-for-profit expression of her vision, offering programming rooted in land-based wisdom, ancestral healing, sound ceremony, and the living arts.

Banchotova Webb said she is a certified lead artist educator through the Royal Conservatory of Music and a sound ceremony practitioner with over 26 years of collaborative work alongside First Nations communities.

She added her practice weaves together creational energy, natural law, drum-building, stained glass, and the healing power of story "always in service of the land and the people who walk upon it."

She noted the main celebration will be on July 11-12.

Banchotova Webb said there would be a welcoming sacred fire ceremony led by an Indigenous African guest; a story bench dedication; an ancestral spiral garden dedication; bead-seed weaving circle; aerial art and performance; and a tea party

"This is more than an event — it is a living story being written in real time, in the soil and sound and ceremony of the Haliburton Highland," she added.

The venue is at 18378 Hwy. 118 Tory Hill. For registration and information Email: froghollow118@gmail.com

This weekend

- **June 25** - live music hosted at the Great Hall at HSAD featuring Joel Saunders 5-6 p.m.
- **June 27** - truck pull and show and shine, hosted by the Kinsmen Club at the Minden Fairgrounds, all day.
- **June 27** - fly-in at Stanhope Airport 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **June 27** - Dorset Heritage Day at the museum 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **June 27** - Sustainable Shores & Gardens at Abbey Gardens 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **June 28** - Dorset Arts and Craft Show 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parkette.
- **June 28** - Strawberry Social at Wanakita, noon to 4 p.m.

Right: Biljana Banchotova Webb drums on her land in Tory Hill. *File.*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION?

Election staff are available at the Administration office (7 Milne St) Monday-Friday from 8:30-4:30 (excluding holidays). Pick up an information brochure, check to see if you're registered to vote, and learn more about important dates. You can also visit our Election Awareness booth at the Canada Day celebrations!

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFP No. RDS 26-002 Roads Needs Study, Speed Limit Review and Traffic Speed Study. Closing Date: Extended to June 26, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
• RFT No. CSD 26-01 Backup Generator for S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Closing date: July 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• June 25 – Regular Council Meeting
• July 23 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• The *2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands* will be on display until July 18.

• *Museum of Her,* a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit will be on display at the MHCC until August 29.

• The Unfinished Objects (UFO) Craft group will be meeting on Friday, June 26 from 1 - 3 pm in the Welch Room.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities!

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

DROP-IN PROGRAMMING

The summer drop-in schedule is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

New this year the Township will have Drop-in Of The Day programming in the afternoon on non-camp weeks for parents to be able to drop off their children. Find out more information online under Other Drop-In.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes of the Township's Fees and Charges By-law to:

• Schedule A – (Septic Re-inspection Program) **Please note that the proposed Building fees have been removed.**
• Schedule I – Environment Water, Sewer, and Landfill

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Details of proposed changes will be made available in the coming week.

For more information, please visit our website.

CANADA DAY

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 to celebrate Canada Day.

• Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
• Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be open with a variety of activities. All waste disposal sites will operate on regular hours.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917
@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. June 28, darts at 7 p.m., $5 per player.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. June 30, exercise club at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. June 25 is HHHS social recreation at 10 a.m.; horseshoes at 7 p.m., $5 per player.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. June 26 is $20 senior lunch at noon; fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. June 27, meat draw at 3 p.m., karaoke at 8 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first Sunday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

June 27, all day. Truck pull and show and shine at the Minden Fairgrounds, hosted by the Kinsmen Club. Registration runs 8-11 a.m with the truck pull starting at noon. There's corn hole at 10 a.m., food, refreshments and a beer tent. Adults are $15, children 12-16 are $5 and kids under 12 free.

June 27, 8 a.m. Community yard sale at the Burnt River Community Centre (16 Somerville Centre Rd.) For more information, contact Cheryl at 905-505-1773.

June 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dorset Heritage Day at the Dorset Museum. Lots of fun for the whole family, with both indoor and outdoor activities. All are welcome.

June 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stanhope Municipal Airport fly-in. Enjoy a community BBQ, aircraft rides with Near North Aviation and learn about your local airport.

June 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sustainable Shores and Garden event at Abbey Gardens. There will be a native plant sale, ecology and gardening workshops, environmental initiative displays, family-friendly programming and more. Pre-order plants and register for workshops at ecoenvirolearn.org.

June 27, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Strawberry supper at Highland Grove Community Centre (5373 Loop Rd.) This cold plate meal features turkey, beef, ham, a variety of salads and strawberry shortcake for dessert. Adults are $20 per person, children aged 5 to 10 are $10. Kids under five eat free. All proceeds support the Highland Grove Historical Society.

June 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dorset Arts and Crafts Show at the Dorset Parkette (22602 Hwy. 35). To book your spot, contact Sandra Rogers at 705-766-9969 or recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca.

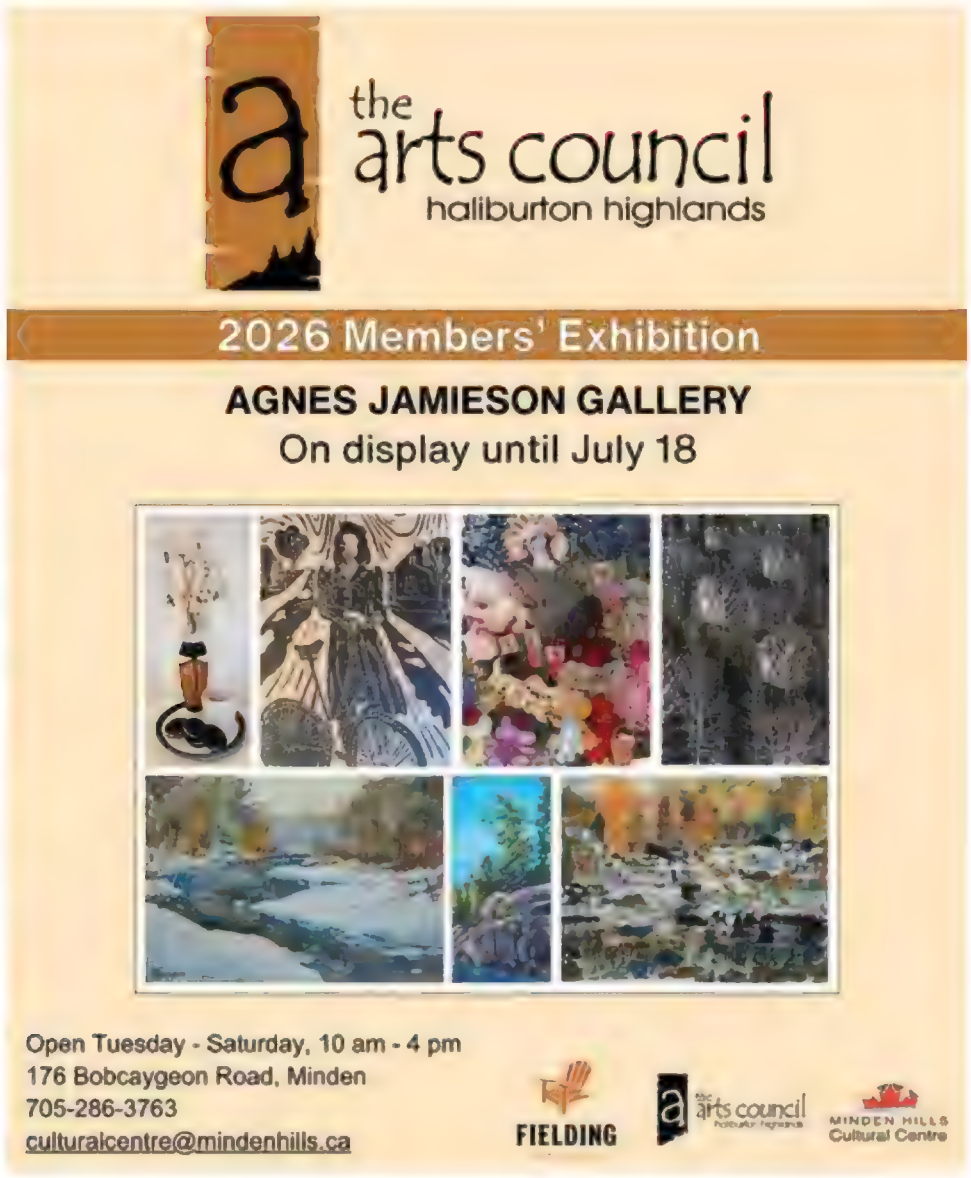
June 28, noon to 4 p.m. Help WMCA Wanakita celebrate its 49th annual strawberry social open house. All are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of swimming, kayaking and a host of other free, fun activities. All-you-can-eat meal in the dining hall afterwards for a fee – $50 for families, $20 for an adult and $16 for children under 16.

June 29, 7 p.m. Highlands Summer Festival kicks off its 2026 season with *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*. There will be nine shows at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion until July 8. Recommended for ages 7 and up. Tickets are $40, available online at tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca/product/anne-of-green-gables.

June 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit Head Lake Park in Haliburton every Tuesday through summer for the Haliburton County Farmers Market. Runs every Tuesday in Haliburton until Oct. 6 and Saturday in Minden until Oct. 10.

July 1, all day. Celebrate Canada Day be exploring the communities of Highlands East. Start the day with breakfast at the Cardiff Legion at 9 a.m., there will be a flag raising at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost at 11:30 a.m., games and music at the curling club from noon to 3 p.m., children's crafts, horseshoes and BBQ in Highland Grove and evening entertainment in Gooderham beginning at 4 p.m.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.



Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS CHIMNEY – Repairs, installs, sweeping (140), parging. WETT certified for your safety. Call Dave at 705-457-6848 or 519-820-6369

DO YOU HAVE a wet slip boathouse falling in the Lake? If so, we can help! Also Decks, Lifts & Excavation work. Call 705-957-8617 to get started!

HIGHLAND GREENERIES - We take care of your gardens so you can enjoy them. Garden Services: Garden Cleanups (Spring & Fall), Mulching, Weeding & Edging, Pruning & Seasonal Cutbacks, Ongoing Garden Maintenance. Also Offering: Spring/ Fall Yard Cleanups, Leaf Removal & Raking. Proudly serving the Haliburton Highlands and surrounding areas. Highlandgreeneries@ hotmail.com 705-455-2813 / 705-455-2156

GENERAL CARPENTRY – 40 years of experience. Small jobs welcome. Free quote. Call Bill at 705-372-3778

PAINTER - Professional, experienced, and dependable painter available for residential and commercial projects — from a single room to an entire home or office. Minor repairs included at no additional charge. Decks! Power washed and stained. Call or text 647-213-2875 for a free estimate or call 705-447-2213

MUSICIAN AVAILABLE ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCALIST available for private parties, bars and corporate events. Songs ranging from the 70's / 80's / 90's to current hits. I have played the Rockcliffe (Moore Falls) / Graz (Bobcaygeon) / and this year I am also playing Kinmount Music in the Park / Taste of the Kingsway (in Toronto for a 2nd year – 500+ people) and many other events and bars. Call or text - 416.580.3195 for more info and to get the conversation started

SERVICES

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up.
Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows. ca or follow us on Facebook @ haliburtonmicromeadows

FOR SALE - CANOE - Paddle like a pro with a Langford Prospector 15 in excellent condition. Comfortable seating and beautiful wood trim. On consignment at Algonquin Outfitters in Haliburton $2800.

FOR SALE - 16' clear water design tandem kayak nunavit green 2 padded seats with pump lumbar support and adjustable foot rests. Very stable. Like new $700. New cost $1400 + tax Carnarvan. Please call 416-566-4101 or 705-489-1250

FOR SALE – 2025 FORTRESS S-425 Electric Scooter plus enclosed Trailer with ramp. Both in excellent condition. Call or Text 416-843-7938

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 27 Sancayne Street (off Halbiem) Saturday, June 27th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rain or Shine!

GARAGE SALE – Rain or Shine!1167 Woods Road, Haliburton. Saturday, June 27th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fabrics, household/kitchen items, gabardine, wool blends, cotton blends, knits, lame, 80's polyester, linings, satin, velour, velvets & more.

YARD SALE – 1576 Mumford Road, Harcourt. Friday, July 3rd & Saturday, July 4th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Furniture, home décor, kitchenware, electrics, tools & hardware, Dune Buggy and 8N Tractor (running) Collectibles, Seasonal items (camping items, winter gear) And much more!

A GARAGE SALE TO END ALL GARAGE SALES – 1129 Wonderland Rd, Haliburton. 4 days only – Thursday, July 2nd to Sunday, July 5th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you don't like the price – make an offer – everything must go! Workshop Closing – Power tools, hand tools, hardware, fasteners, screws, nails etc. Table Saw blades, thickness planer, electric chain saw & sharpener, Battery charger. Snowblower – brand new head, valves, push rods & carburettor kit. Handmade crafts, fabric & wool – Works of Art. Glassware & Dishes – antique & contemporary. Many other items too numerous to mention. New stuff every day. CASH ONLY (No $100 bills,please)

YARD SALE

We are back for another year with our annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale! - 1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden. Thursday, July 2nd from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, July 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Saturday, July 4th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Follow our road signs!
RAIN OR SHINE

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

HELP WANTED

TOW TRUCK DRIVER - West Guilford Towing is looking to add a hard working tow truck driver to our team. If you're looking for a one of a kind career, this is for you. Driver's abstract and clean police check required. We provide job training. All enquiries will be kept confidential. Call 705-754-3780 or email resume to: wgtr@outlook.com

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

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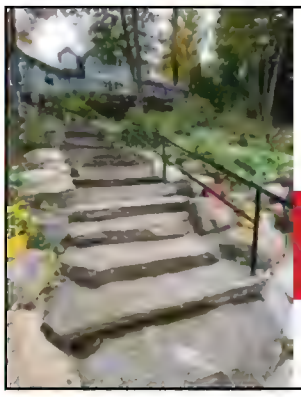

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Highlander classifieds

NOTICE

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Procurement Coordinator

This role is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, trade agreements, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policies. This role ensures that all procurement documentation and communications comply with legislation and the County's policy for open, transparent, and competitive bidding and tendering processes.

The successful candidate will possess a public purchasing designation, five years of experience and relevant post-secondary education. Hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.29.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 10, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

HELP WANTED

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Is looking for a

CLEANING / MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation is seeking a reliable and self-motivated Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant to join our team in Minden. This is currently a part-time position (30 hours per week), with the potential to evolve into a full-time position.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all buildings, common areas, laundry rooms, washrooms, etc. Secondary duties include minor maintenance repairs, painting, groundskeeping, garbage disposal, and assisting the Maintenance Supervisor with apartment turnovers.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, the ability to work independently and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification desired. A valid drivers license and abstract plus a Vulnerable Sector Police Check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision, life insurance and OMERS Pension). Wage: $20.00 per hour. Start date: July 20, 2026.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 10, 2026 to: Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 or email: manager@staanworth.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation 705-286-3444
44 Parkside St, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 manager@staanworth.ca

HELP WANTED

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APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE

CONTACT DEREK 705-457-7341
RESUMES CAN BE EMAILED TO DEREK@BEACHLI.CA

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Patrol Superintendent

This role performs road patrols, provides direction to staff, contractors, obtains locates, provides project layouts, and supports maintenance and repair operations for the County Haliburton. This role provides supervision and there is a regular requirement to be on call as well as work weekends and evenings.

The successful candidate will possess a DZ licence and three (3) years of related experience. The hourly rate is $36.32 - $42.49.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 1, 2026**.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library Requires:

One (1) Programming and Outreach Coordinator

This role is responsible for planning, facilitating, and supporting in-person, virtual, and outreach programs and events for all age groups across all library branch locations.

The successful candidate will possess post-secondary education in library studies, education, or a related field with at least three (3) years of related experience, preferably in a public library setting. The hourly rate is $33.42 - $39.10.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than **July 1, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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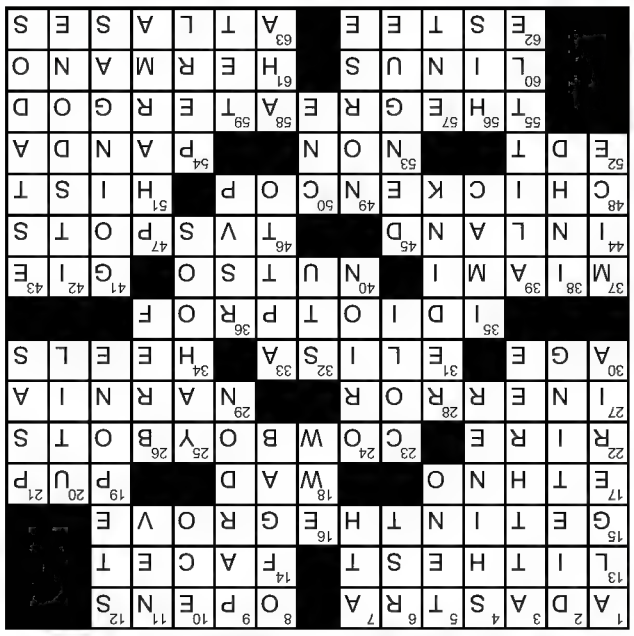
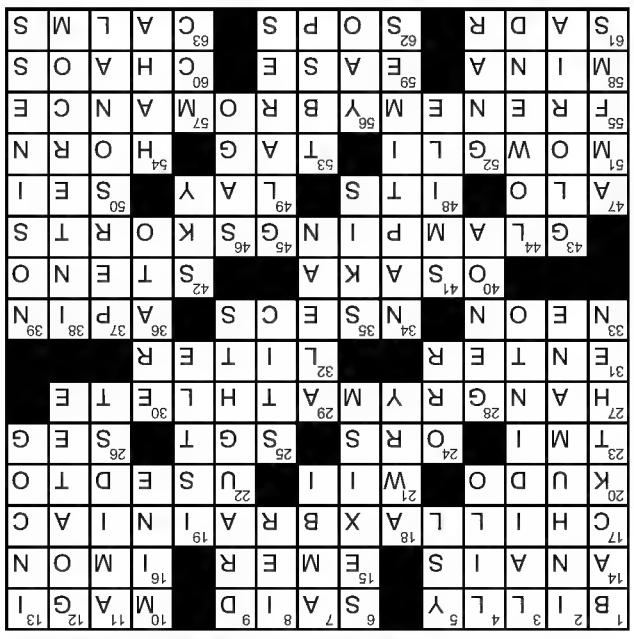
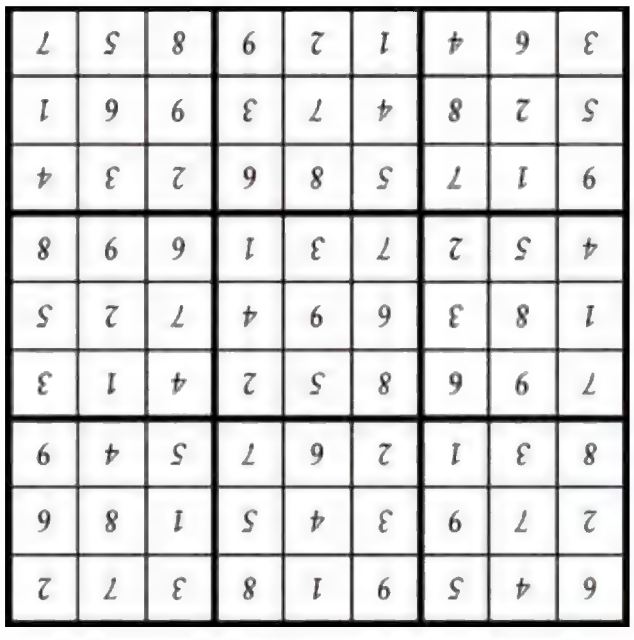


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Heather Elizabeth Kaley (Andrew)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in Minden, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at the age of 76.

Heather was born on November 19, 1949, in Hamilton, Ontario, to Eileen Andrew (Edwardson), CWAC, and Robert Andrew, DFC. As an Air Force "brat," Heather spent her early years moving across the country. These experiences shaped her resilience, adaptability, and deep appreciation for connection, as well as for the people and places she came to call home along the way.

Heather leaves behind her devoted husband, Robert (Bob) Kaley, who will forever treasure the life they built together over 46 years—especially the simple joy of their drives along the backroads of Muskoka and Georgian Bay. Heather touched the lives of her daughters and stepchildren with her genuine smile, warmth, and gentle nature. As a nana, grandma, great grandma, mother, big sister, aunt, cousin, and friend, she leaves behind many cherished memories that will be treasured always.

Heather had a natural love of numbers, which guided her throughout her career. She retired as Payroll & Benefits Manager from Fowler Construction in Bracebridge, where she was respected not only for her dedication and professionalism, but also for the kindness and care she brought to her work and colleagues. Above all, Heather will be remembered for her gentle spirit, quiet strength, and the compassion she showed so effortlessly. She had a special way of making people feel comfortable, cared for, and truly seen.

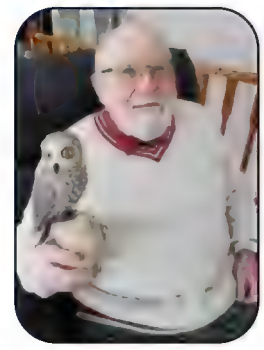
The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Hyland Crest Long-Term Care for the care and kindness they showed Heather.

A private gathering will be held to celebrate her life. In lieu of flowers, donations in Heather's memory may be made to HHHSF-Hyland Crest Residence Council and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

William "Bill" Picard



(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

It is with profound sadness that the family of William (Bill) Jerome Picard announce his passing. He went home to be with the Lord on June 17th, 2026 at the age of 90. Bill always had a passion for creating. Whether with a Dremel, a welder, wood burner, paintbrush or hammer. He made many beautiful things that brought so much joy to his family and friends. He spent much of his time outdoors and enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating, camping and cruising on his dune buggies. Bill is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Nancy and his children, Jacqueline, Jay and Bob (Julia). He is fondly remembered by grandchildren, Kathleen (Kyle), Heather (Michael), Morgan, Abbey (Blaine), Megg and Jake and by his great grandchild Bennett. Bill's memory will live on in his family who will miss him very much but are so deeply thankful for the impact he had on their lives.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday evening, June 25, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. A Memorial Service will follow in the Chapel on Friday morning, June 26, 2026 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Haliburton Community Funeral Home

HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a

Planner

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the permanent, full-time position of Planner.

Algonquin Highlands offers a competitive salary, compressed workweek, excellent benefits package, Health and Wellness opportunities and enrollment in the OMERS Pension Plan. Join a dedicated team that strives to make us the best place to live, work and play.

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Highlander puzzles

Pairs of Portmanteaus

by Barbara Olson
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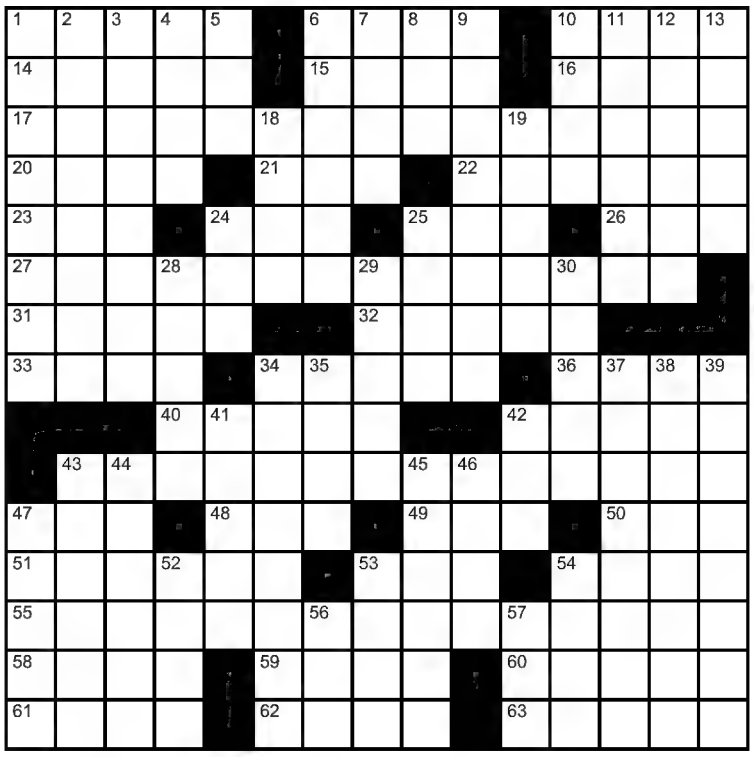

Across

1 Idol of rock
6 ___ one's piece (spoke up)
10 "We Three Kings" kings
14 "Delta of Venus" author Nin
15 Red alert situation: Abbr.
16 "___ a roll!"
17 "Take it easy, Einstein!"?
20 Bit of praise
21 Fit Plus game console
22 Comfortable with
23 "Stop! My virgin ears!"
24 "Scrubs" settings
25 Beatles' song title?
26 Line part: Abbr.
27 Trig whiz grumbling with a rumbling tummy?
31 Return key kin
32 About a quart, in the U.S.
33 Arcade Fire's "___ Bible"
34 Tiny time pieces: Abbr.
36 Neat as ___
40 Tennis champ Naomi
42 Word before pool or pad
43 Tennis garb for luxury tenters?
47 Telefono greeting
48 Possessive often mistakenly apostrophized
49 Set (down)
50 Cinque, ___, sette
51 Baloo's man-cub pupil
53 "You're it" game
54 Rhinos have one
55 Tight relationship between rival dudes?
58 "Dracula" heroine Harker
59 Life of Riley, so to speak
60 Pandemonium
61 Baghdad district ___ City
62 Absorbs, with "up"
63 Becomes less stressed

Down

1 In the "good ol' days"
2 Beyond cruel
3 Berated but good
4 "___ & Stitch" (cartoon)
5 Libre perfume maker's initials
6 Wage gap cause, maybe
7 Prefix with -dextrous
8 "Y," in comparatives
9 Checkers, in Britain
10 The Seven Dwarves' workplace
11 In the thick of
12 Colonel Sanders' beard
13 Sporting a hat and shades, say, briefly
18 Not quite right
19 Basket-making fibre
24 Bruins number 4
25 Bic Clic ___ (pen brand)
28 Italian city or sausage
29 "... ___, mean, fightin' machine!" (John Candy in "Stripes")
30 "The lovely Muse"
34 Siesta sessions
35 Waxed sports equipment
37 Part of PIN
38 Jerry uses it to buzz Elaine up
39 Prier offense?
41 Word before [click]
42 Snow angel maker's view
43 Sally in "All in the Family"
44 Near the bottom, quality-wise
45 Shoots daggers (at)
46 Food thickening starch
47 Dual-band radios
52 Cur's "grr"
53 Approx. 15 ml.
54 "Very funny"
56 7'6" Ming of the NBA
57 Old Roman 1200

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7	9							
						7		5
		2	7	3	1			
9			5			2		4
	2	8			3	9		
	6						5	

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The Highlander

WEEKEND

Thursday June 25, 2026

HHSS 50-YEAR REUNION ..... PAGE 2-3
MINDEN FARMERS MARKET ..... PAGE 5
THANKS, VOLUNTEERS ..... PAGE 6
BOOKAPALOOZA ..... PAGE 7

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER IN THE HIGHLANDS

Karters circle the track at Minden Experience under the Canadian flag. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Happy Canada Day Haliburton Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

Canada Day next Wednesday (July 1) offers a variety of events across the Highlands, with most of the action in Minden Hills and Highlands East and a sprinkling in Algonquin Highlands.

The nation's birthday gets underway early in the County. In Minden, families register for the popular fishing derby at 7:30 a.m. They then line the Gull River with rods and pails for the three-hour catch-all. The event is for kids 14 and under, who must wear a life jacket. The last call for weigh-in is 11 a.m. with lots of prizes on offer for the young anglers.

There's always plenty going on downtown. After the derby, Water and Milne streets are filled with vendors until about 2 p.m. with food booths from Minden Rotary, the Minden and District Lions Club, Mulligans and The Lemon Bar. The classic car show will also see vintage rides along Water Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The opening ceremony is at 10:15 a.m. followed by a cupcake giveaway at the community services tent while supplies last and the popular rubber duck race, hosted by the Minden Agricultural Society.

There are a number of events at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, too. People can tour the Museum & Heritage Village, Nature's Place, and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

An interesting add-on this year is the Conundrum installation. The Conundrum, created by artist David Hynes, is a unique musical instrument - a combination 13-foot canoe and drum that has gained international attention.

There will be air bounce inflatables; face painting by Pockets and an ice cream giveaway sponsored by Kawartha Dairy, while supplies last.

The arena will see a magic show, featuring Ray the Cool Magician; at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. while a bouncy castle and other equipment will be available in the gymnasium.

In the evening, Nick and Benton will play in the bandshell from 7:30-9:30 p.m.; there'll be a food booth; and a fireworks show put on by SuperNova.

Water Street, from Bobcaygeon Road to St. Germaine Street; Prince Street from St. Germaine Street to Water Street; and Milne Street from Newcastle Street to Prince Street will be closed from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Highlands East

Festivities kick off at the Cardiff Legion at 9 a.m. for The Royal Canadian Legion's pancake breakfast - adults $5.

In Highland Grove, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Kidd School House Museum, there will be children's crafts, local entertainment, horseshoes, BBQ and fire truck on display.

The flag-raising ceremony is at 11:30 a.m. at the Red Cross Outpost Museum in Wilberforce, with live entertainment followed by sandwiches and cupcakes.

From noon to 1 p.m. people can check out the food bank. There will be games at the curling club, the 50/50 winner announced and live music featuring Phil O'Reilly.

Things wind down in Gooderham, at the community centre. There will be children's activities, including a chance to interact with fire trucks, hoses and gear; plus, cake, BBQ and live entertainment featuring Ragged Company. Fireworks start at dusk.

Algonquin Highlands

The annual celebration will take place at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes a BBQ and open house at Algonquin Highlands Fires Services Station 70, the book launch of *Oxtongue Inspires: Through the Lens of Local Artists from Algonquin to Lake of Bays*, games, face-painting, and more.

WEEKEND

COMMUNITY

Cleve Roberts, Sandy (Gough) Kriss, Barb (Payne) Fawcett, and Kim Emmerson are pictured during the class reunion. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Class of '76 reflects on simpler time

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) class of 1976, school spirit wasn't just about bell-bottoms, sports cars and classic rock; it was a time defined by friendship that bridged town borders, home-cooked cafeteria meals, and a much simpler time that feels worlds away.

More than 40 HHSS alumni gathered over the weekend for a 50-year reunion, with former classmates travelling from across North America. The multi-day event saw former students converging on the County from as far as California, Alberta, and New Brunswick.

Organizers and classmates Barb (Payne) Fawcett, Sandy (Gough) Kriss, Cleve Roberts, and Kim Emmerson sat down with *The Highlander* ahead of the weekend reunion to discuss what life was like as a student back in the day. Looking back to 1976, the group recalled a vibe that would shock modern students.

"We were saying how it's kind of simpler times back then," Roberts said. "We were talking about going to school and having a rifle in your pickup truck because you might get a partridge on the way home. If you didn't want to leave it in the pickup truck, you'd put it in your locker. Can you imagine these days?"

In the fall, it was perfectly normal for students to take a week off just to go hunting.

"That was just a normal thing in Haliburton," Fawcett explained. "There'd be a whole bunch of people that wouldn't be in class for, you know, maybe up to a week or longer if they were away hunting."

"It was a simpler time, but we didn't know that," Kriss added.

It was also a time in which technology was on the verge of taking off. The friends recalled learning how to use a slide rule in Grade 11 physics just as the first handheld calculators were hitting the market.

"I can remember George Cooper bought one of the first ones. It was $75," Roberts said. "That would be equivalent to like $500 today."

Communication was also different back then. Without cellphones or private phone lines for some, students relied on local "party lines," which shared phone access with neighbours on the lake and which made calling friends for help with homework a feat in itself.

The Minden-Haliburton rivalry was alive and well back then and on full display at the rink on Friday nights.

"You didn't need to go any further than the rink to see that," Roberts said.

But according to the group, the class of '76 managed to completely dissolve the border between the two towns.

"When this group came together, all of that kind of disappeared," Roberts noted. "It really didn't matter where you were from. It was who you were."

For Fawcett and Kriss, who came in from Minden for school, they entered Grade 9 with a mix of anxiety and excitement alongside Haliburton locals Emmerson and Roberts. And by the end of the first year, the group had blended easily, so much so that teachers used the class as a gold standard of comparison for more than a decade.

"For probably 10 or more years, at least, when there were still teachers at the high school, our class was what they would talk about," Fawcett said. "Our class was kind of the, I don't mean epitome in a bad way, but that was kind of the comparison."

Part of the reunion festivities included a banquet dinner at Minden's iconic Dominion Hotel, a venue that raised a few eyebrows apparently.

"The Dominion back in the day, when we were around, was seedy," Kriss, who selected the venue, said with a laugh.

The Rockcliffe was the preferred choice for teens in the '70s. Today, however, the Dominion has been renovated, and its current owners have warmly welcomed the class, the group said.

"It triggers people's memories from 50 years ago," Fawcett joked, adding she was told by her parents to walk on the opposite side of the street from the Dominion.

When asked what advice they would give their teenage selves on graduation day, the group collectively said self-compassion.

"I didn't think that I was smart enough to go to college," Kriss shared candidly. "I was smart enough to go. I just didn't know it. So, I think for young people, they need to not be too hard on themselves. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other."

And once the reunion wraps up and the former classmates go their separate ways, organizers hope they take with them a sense of gratitude for the times they had.

"I hope they take with them that we are so blessed that we lived in these times," Kriss said. "The relationships, the friendships, the fun, the simplicity, the music… that we've lived in this period of time is such a blessing."

WEEKEND

Continued from page 2

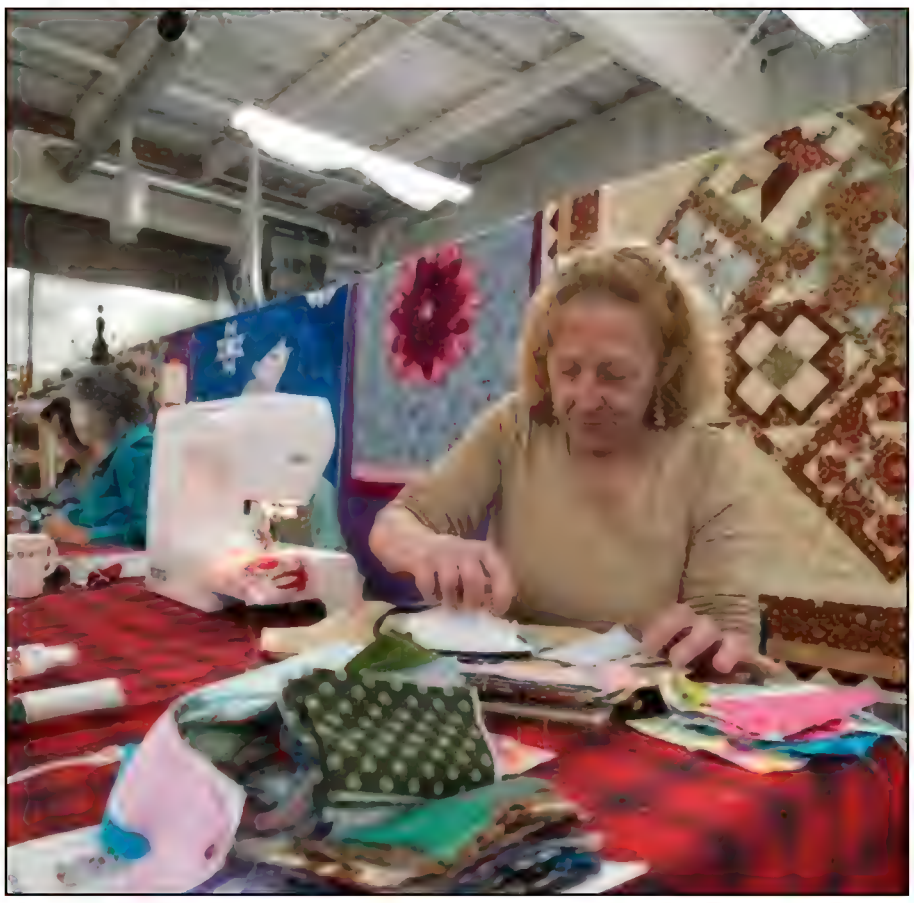
More than 40 graduates of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) class of 1976 gathered on June 20 at the Dominion Hotel in Minden for a 50-year reunion. Classmates travelled far and wide to reunite for an afternoon celebration.

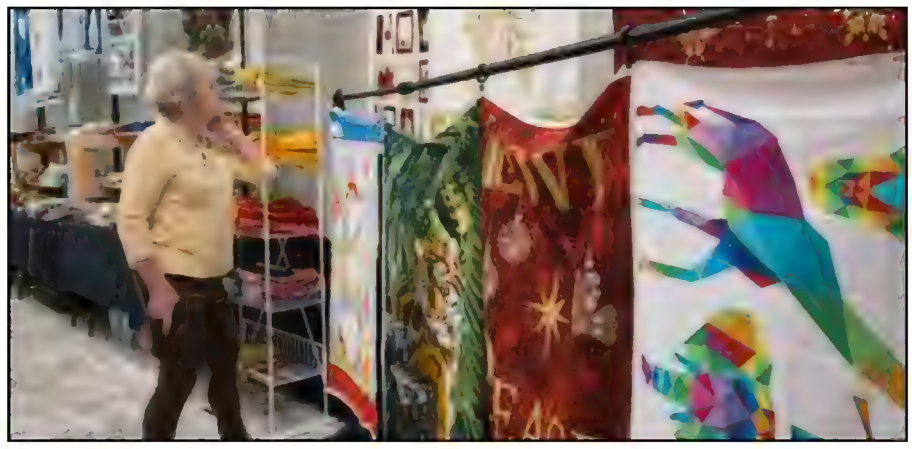
Above: Classmates pose for a group photo at the Dominion Hotel. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

COMMUNITY

WEEKEND

CRAFTS





Pretty patterns

The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild hosted a quilting show at the Minden Curling Club on Saturday (June 20), showcasing beautiful craftsmanship by local creators. The event featured dozens of quilts on display while fabric and other crafting supplies were available for purchase.

Left: Guild member Kim Workman irons-out some fabric during the quilting show on Saturday. Top right: Folks streamed through the curling club. Bottom right: A woman looks at some of the quilts. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in – various dates in July

July 2 & 16
Painting Class

July 6
Emergency Preparedness and Community Paramedicine

July 8
Guided Tour of the Haliburton Highlands Museum

July 9
Creative Writing with Susan E. Wadds

July 14, 21, 28
Seniors Stretch Class

July 14, 21, 28
Seniors Balance & Cardio Fitness Class

July 14, 21, 28
Exercise Classes with Georgia

July 15
Chair Yoga with Lorrie

July 15
SALC Webinar: Sacred Traditions, Artifacts of Church Life

July 15
Crafternoon

July 15 & 29
Exercise with Georgia

July 16, 23, 30
Seniors Stretch Class

July 16
Poetry with Patricia

July 17
Meet the Author: Fay Martin

July 17 & 24
Returning to the Earth: Understanding Green Burial

July 18
Fitness Success Workshop

July 20
SALC Webinar: Lakelands Public Health Unit

July 22 & 30
Demystify AI 2: Issues and Challenges

Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

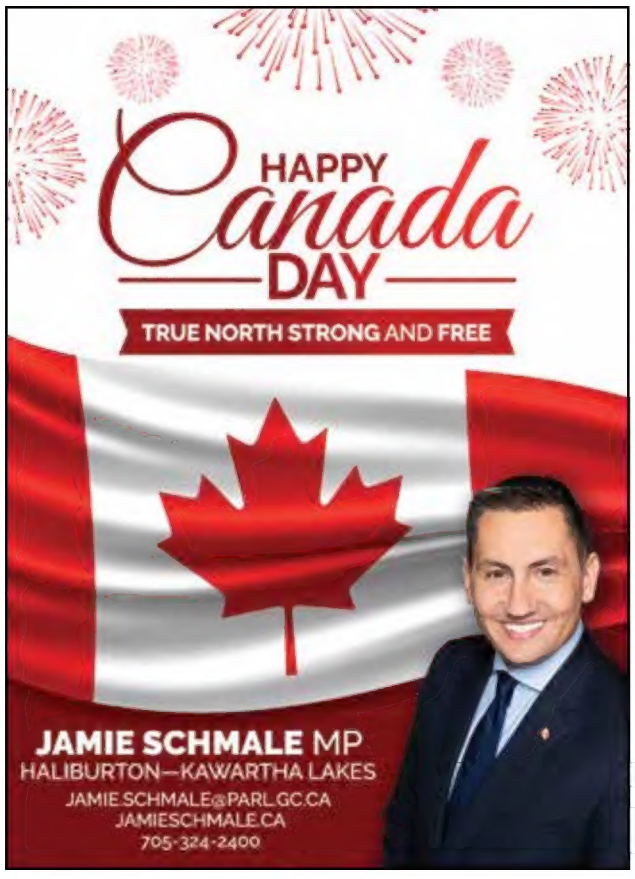
WEEKEND

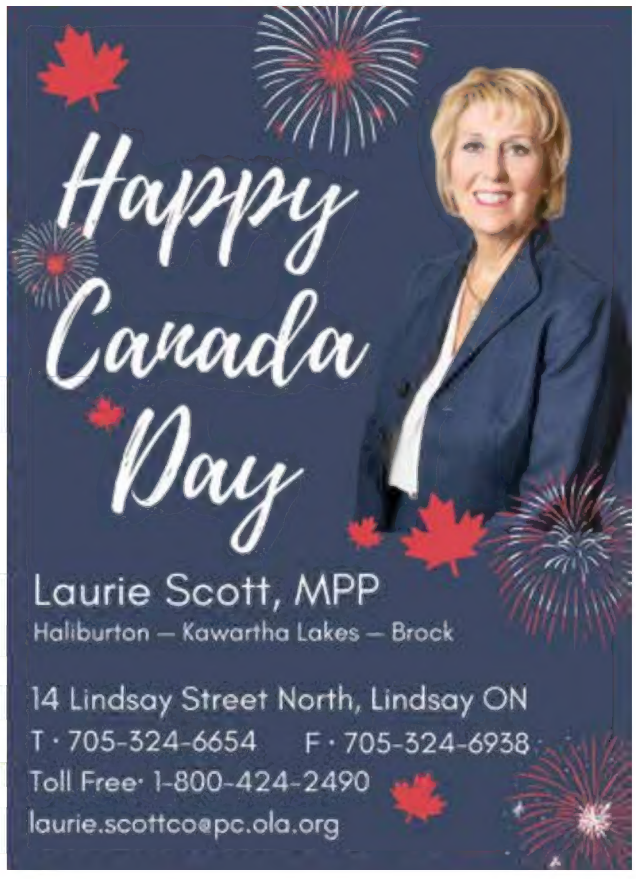
MARKETS

Selling their wares

The Minden farmers market was a happening place on Saturday (June 20) with the weather cooperating for most of the morning. The market featured everything from locally-grown fruits and vegetables to smoked meats, dog treats and maple syrup.

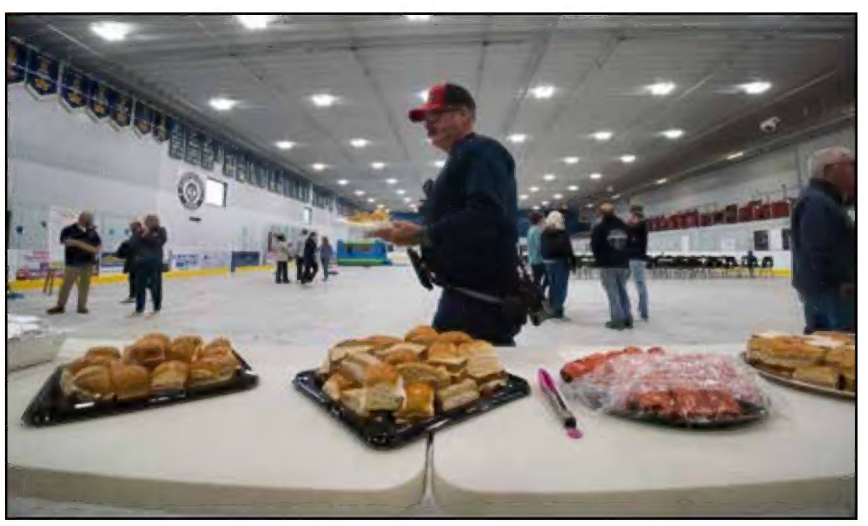
Above: Shoppers enjoy free samples Saturday morning. Top right: A family shops for some fruit and veggies. Bottom right: Asher and Sawyer Bradley look at 3D-printed dinosaurs at Austin Weller's booth. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*





WEEKEND

VOLUNTEERS



Thanks, volunteers

The Township of Minden Hills hosted a community and volunteer appreciation event at the arena on Thursday (June 18) evening, to thank residents for their response to the April flooding. Municipality staff and community members were on hand to enjoy some light refreshments and food during the event.
Photos by Adam Frisk.

WEEKEND

BOOKS

Another one in the books

Bookapalooza returned for its annual celebration of literary talent on Saturday (June 20), showcasing the local arts scene alongside major international bestsellers. The festival featured a sold-out exhibit hall at the Minden Hills Community Centre and a headlining lineup featuring bestselling authors Bianca Marais and Marissa Stapley. About 40 local writers representing everything from memoirs and young adult fiction to historical drama were on hand for the full-day event.

Left: County-based writer Linda Lewis-Daly poses with her book *Lodging Legacies,* that dives into the stories of 45 former cabin resorts, camps, and lodges along the Kashagawigamog Lake chain. Right: Pilot and author Lola Reid Allin with her book, *Highway to the Sky*. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

THE TOWNSHIP OF
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IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Wednesday July 1, 2026

Downtown Minden

7:30am: Fishing Derby Registration Starts
8:00am-11:00am: Fishing Derby
10:00am-2:00pm: Vendors, Exhibitors and Classic Car Show
10:00am: Opening Ceremonies
11:30am: Free Canada Day Cupcakes at the Community Service Department tent *while supplies last
1:00pm: Rubber Duck Race

Fairgrounds

7:30pm-9:30pm: Nick & Benton performing
Food Booth Open
Dusk: Fireworks by Supernova

Cultural Centre

10:00am-4:00pm: Activities throughout the day
10:00am-2:00pm: Air Bounce Inflatables, Face painting by Pockets
11:00am–2:00pm: Conundrum by David Hynes
12:00pm: Ice Cream, sponsored by Kawartha Dairy *while supplies last

SG Nesbitt Arena

11:30am: Show #1, Ray the Cool Magician
1:00pm: Show #2, Ray the Cool Magician

For a full list of events visit our webpage

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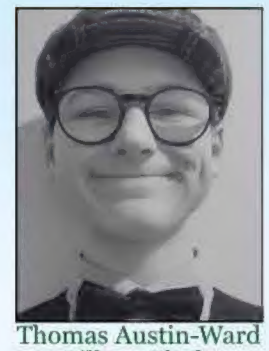
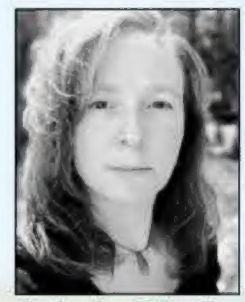

Thomas Austin-Ward
Gilbert Blythe

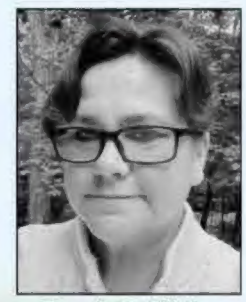
Lauren McInnes
Rachel Lynde

Fia Marziali
Diana Barry

Evelyn Mardus
Josie Pye

Annabelle Borgdorff
Mrs. MacPherson/ Miss Muriel Stacy


Catherine Wheeler
Mrs. Sloane/ Mrs. Blewett


Renée Griffith
Mrs. Pye

Wayne Black
Minister

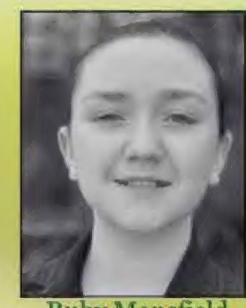
Max Ward
Earl/Station Manager

Curtis Eastmure
Cecil

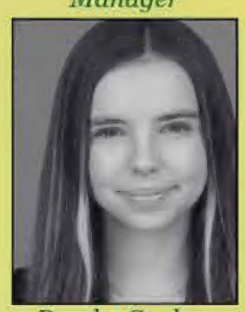
Meg Mardus
Mrs. Spencer/ Lucilla

Christine Jonas-Simpson
Mrs. Barry

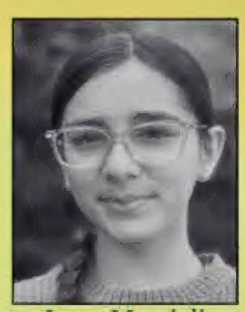
Róisín Hogan
Prissy Andrews


Ruby Mansfield
Ruby Gillis

Penelope Irvine
Tillie Boulter


Brooke Gooley
Gertie Pye

Ruairí Byrne
Moody Sloane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